

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Frankfurt Needs a “Data Hub”**

**Promotional Event for Positioning Frankfurt as a Big-Data Site**

Frankfurt a.M., September 24th, 2015 – Some 20 high-level representatives of the regional economy, science, and politics came together today at the Frankfurt Innovation Center (FiZ) to identify strategies for establishing Frankfurt as a prime location in global big-data competition. The initiator of the event, Dr. Christian Garbe, the managing director of FiZ, stated that digitalization produces business models with entirely new opportunities for creating value, which would be worth utilizing.

Garbe presented the concept of a “data hub for health”, which unites globally existing medical information in Frankfurt. “The healthcare industry is continually collecting more personalized data, the potential of which has not previously be exhausted due to its decentralized availability”, said Garbe. Therefore, the market needs new solutions. At the same time, the concentration of existing knowledge provides a valuable platform for scientists and contributes to the specification of diagnoses as well as to the development of new therapies.

“Frankfurt has the unique opportunity of developing into an international data hub”, remarked Garbe. “A data hub creates the necessary sustainable basis for growth for the location of Frankfurt. The concept can be applied to other sectors and Frankfurt offers ideal conditions with respect to its already existing high-tech infrastructure.” Peter Knapp, managing director of Interxion GmbH, said, “The colocation of various players within the same data center with a simultaneous direct connection to the DE-CIX German internet exchange creates a crucial location advantage for the digitalization of the Rhein-Main region.”

During their discussion, the participants defined the next steps for implementing the data hub necessary for the promotional event. Identifying relevant stakeholders and partners and getting them on board with the idea is said to be particularly essential. After all, a project of this size can only ever be successful if the silo mentality is overcome and new alliances are established.

**About Frankfurter Innovationszentrum Biotechnologie GmbH (FiZ)**

With around 23,000 m2 at their Frankfurt Rhein-Main location, Frankfurter Innovationszentrum Biotechnologie GmbH (FiZ) offers small and medium-size business in the field of life sciences a tailored research infrastructure and thus optimal working conditions. 16 companies with 700 employees are located in FiZ. Moreover, the FiZ has become an important address for collaborations and interdisciplinary networks. Shareholders of the operating company founded in 2002 are the State of Hesse, the city of Frankfurt am Main, and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Frankfurt am Main.

**Further Information: www.fiz-biotech.de**

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