PRESS INFORMATION

German Federal Minister of Justice Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger Visits Secomba GmbH in the "aiti-Park" Technology and Start-up Centre

The minister appreciates the teams of entrepreneurs and developers in Augsburg
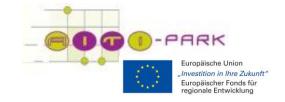
Augsburg, 08/20/2013: **The German Federal Minister of Justice, Mrs Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, meets young entrepreneurs in the "aiti-Park" technology and start-up centre today during her visit to Augsburg. She took a tour of the aiti-Park to find out about the innovative products of the teams, from robotics to the award-winning encryption software "Boxcryptor" by Secomba GmbH. She then discussed important aspects of data protection with the founders Andrea Wittek and Robert Freudenreich.**

The German Federal Minister of Justice, Mrs Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger, got an idea not only of the diversity of the companies that are located here, but also of the start-up spirit, which originates from this IT start-up centre. She was clearly impressed both by the opportunities offered to young entrepreneurs in Augsburg and by the great ideas they work on. The minister said that she was excited to experience the young people's commitment. Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger was also enthusiastic about the conversation with the two directors of Secomba GmbH, Andrea Wittek and Robert Freudenreich: "It is impressive that young founders give deep thought to the security of personal data and offer practical solutions for secure data storage." In view of the PRISM affair, she emphasized once more that, even in the digital age, the citizens' fundamental rights should determine the privacy standards, not the secret services. The EU would need to develop a common high level of data protection, which applies to foreign companies alike if they target the European market. The German data protection standards should be considered as the benchmark for future legislation at EU level. "I am very pleased that more and more citizens are thinking about encryption", the minister said. "In addition to technical solutions, the government must push forward the political initiatives at all levels. We need measures against mass spying by foreign intelligence services, in the German, EU and international laws", the minister added.

Andrea Wittek and Robert Freudenreich - the founders of Secomba - demonstrated the award-winning product Boxcryptor, an encryption software optimized for data storage on the Internet. CEO Andrea Wittek reported, "Here in Augsburg, we have developed a solution that has already been downloaded more than a million times and is successfully used in more than 30 countries. Wittek continued, "Since the PRISM affair, we have seen an above-average increase in interest in our product, which has given us a significant sales volume in the last few months, and supported our growth ambitions."

In a conversation with the minister, Stefan Schimpfle, director of the aiti-Park, acknowledged the growth potential that the entrepreneurs create. "Technology and knowledge business start-ups are what makes the regional economic policy stand out. They drive innovation in the economic region

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and provide sustainable jobs. This is also why the government needs to focus more on start-ups, increase their visibility and establish the appropriate framework conditions to encourage entrepreneurship. This is the only way to overcome declining start-up figures, because the innovative power of small companies is essential for the economy", summarizes Stefan Schimpfle, director of the aiti-Park.

About Secomba GmbH

Secomba GmbH - founded in Augsburg in 2011 - was initially supported within the EXIST Business Start-up Grant by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. In 2012, the German Telekom awarded the product Boxcryptor the second and audience prizes at the German Telekom Innovations Award. The latest Boxcryptor version includes, besides improved overall usability, also additional features for easy and secure collaboration of multiple users. This is especially important for business teams, as well as private users who want to share files with others, without disclosing passwords.

About the aiti-Park

Since its launch 10 years ago, the aiti-Park has developed into an important organization and platform for the economic region of Augsburg, besides "kit e.V." association for communication and information technology, which represents 75 member companies from the IT and media sector. Within the IT initiative of Swabian Bavaria, the "aiti-Park" technology and start-up centre stands for the stimulation, promotion, support and establishment of innovative technology business start-ups in software, media, mechatronics, and information and communication technology. The goal is to contribute to the support and promotion of the economic region as an efficient IT and start-up region, in order to preserve and provide jobs. As part of the IT initiative of Swabian Bavaria, the aiti-Park is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union.

The office of the "eBusiness manager of Schwabia" in the aiti-Park provides small and medium-sized companies with practical information about orientation in the selection and use of IT and communication solutions. It coordinates the activities in the economic region of Swabian Bavaria and is funded within the initiative "eCompetence Network for Business" of the funding priority "Digital SME - ICT Applications in Business" by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi).

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