

AKKA TECHNOLOGIES STRENGTHENS ITS DIGITAL OFFER WITH NEW 'DIGITAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE' IN LEIPZIG

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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, September 16th, 2021 – AKKA Technologies, European leader in engineering consultancy and R&D services in the mobility sector, expands its presence in Leipzig with the establishment of a new 'Digital Center of Excellence' (DCE). Creating 250 new jobs for highly qualified local professionals, the center will respond to the rapidly increasing demand for digital expertise in the region.

With this Digital Center of Excellence AKKA accelerates digital innovation projects and actively drives the digital transformation of its customers, offering highly innovative solutions in the areas of cloud architecture, software development and testing, embedded software development, AI, machine learning and data analytics.

The German AKKAdeMy, based in Leipzig since 2019, which offers top talents and experienced engineers the latest training programs, will also be moving to the same newly created location. This spatial unification creates a competence center that is unique in Germany. With this significant investment, AKKA underlines the high strategic importance of Leipzig as a business location and supports the city's development into the "Digital Hub of the East", strengthening the digital research and development landscape in Saxony. The Free State of Saxony is funding the Digital Center of Excellence with € 2.6 million as part of "GRW" (Gemeinschaftsaufgabe „Verbesserung der regionalen Wirtschaftsstruktur") geared towards the improvement of regional economic structure.

The new 1000m² location, boasting its own atrium, workshop and relaxation rooms as well as state-of-the-art IT equipment, will offer top graduates and engineers a modern office space and flexible workplace concepts. This attractive working environment at Alte Messe Leipzig constitutes an ideal setting for collaborative development projects.

"We are responding to the current pressure to innovate from our customers in the field of digitalization by creating a unique Center of Excellence in Leipzig. We clearly see a growing need for expertise and advice. We offer our customers precisely the expertise they need to scale their digital transformation. With this Digital Center of Excellence, we aim to capitalize on the steadily growing demand in the region. This expertise will be available to all teams within the AKKA Group, in Germany as well as internationally", **emphasizes Dr. Peter Mehrle, AKKA CEO BU Germany.**

"To drive digitization forward in Germany, we need qualified specialists. Young engineers in particular must be prepared for processes of digital transformation. With its Digital Center of Excellence, AKKA contributes to the Smart Industry, supports the recruitment and training of skilled workers and ensures know-how and knowledge transfer", **says Thomas Jarzombek, Commissioner for the Digital Industry and Start-ups and Federal Government Coordinator of German Aerospace Policy.**

Ines Fröhlich, State Secretary of the Saxon Ministry of Economy, Labour and Transport states: *"I warmly welcome AKKA to the Free State of Saxony. The decision to open a new location in Leipzig proves once again how attractive Saxony is for innovative companies dedicated to digital transformation and the development of future-proof innovative technologies in the immediate environment of renowned customers. AKKA will find excellent conditions, corresponding cooperation opportunities and the necessary business exchange in one of the most dynamic cities in Germany. This new settlement will further advance the business and science location and in particular its digital ecosystem, which is now recognized nationwide."*

"Leipzig attracts highly qualified people from Central Germany and beyond because Leipzig is a city worth living in: green, with affordable rents and short distances. This is a significant location factor for high-tech companies. I am delighted that AKKA has chosen Leipzig as the location for its Center of Excellence and will thus become an important player in the "Alte Messe" Leipzig research and development environment", **says Clemens Schülke, acting head of the Leipzig City Department of Economics, Labor and Digital Affairs.**



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PRESS RELEASE

ABOUT AKKA

AKKA is a European leader in engineering consulting and R&D services. Our comprehensive portfolio of digital solutions combined with our expertise in engineering, uniquely positions us to support our clients by leveraging the power of connected data to accelerate innovation and drive the future of smart industry. AKKA accompanies leading industry players across a wide range of sectors throughout the life cycle of their products with cutting edge digital technologies (AI, ADAS, IoT, Big Data, robotics, embedded computing, machine learning, etc.) to help them rethink their products and business processes. Founded in 1984, AKKA has a strong entrepreneurial culture and a wide global footprint. Our 20,000 employees around the world are all passionate about technology and share the AKKA values of respect, courage and ambition. The Group recorded revenues of €1.5 billion in 2020. AKKA Technologies (AKA) is listed on Euronext Paris and Brussels – segment B – ISIN code: FR0004180537.

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