

The AI-Cup – the first French-Bavarian AI challenge opens for participants!

Many players in France, Germany and Europe were looking forward to the “AI-Cup, a French Bavarian initiative” – following its political kick-off event in October 2021- becoming finally public. Soon, it will be the case: on 9th March, a digital session will give the floor to the French and German organisers behind this initiative for them to present how the competition will take place and what participants will have to perform to prove their scientific and business robustness. From that day onwards, registration will be open for the data science young talents or teams and will remain open till the end of April 2022. Each of the eight winning teams will receive up to 95.000 € and one year of support to create their start-up.

It has been in the air for some time. Last year, French President Emmanuel Macron and Bavarian Minister President Dr. Markus Söder committed to intensifying cooperation between Bavaria and France in technology and innovation. Part of the 10-Points-Agenda, a joint challenge in artificial intelligence (AI) was decided, aimed at stimulating the creation of start-ups in this field. Funded for around one million euros by the Bavarian State Ministry for Economic Affairs and Regional Development the "AI-Cup" challenge was launched by politicians and data providers at the end of October 2021. In the last four months, the organisation team – led by Universität Passau on the German side and École Normale Supérieure de Paris Saclay (ENS-Paris-Saclay, at Université Paris-Saclay) on the French side-cooperated with data providers to develop the tasks participants will have to fulfil in order to demonstrate their data science skills and business readiness.

“It is the first time that a French-Bavarian Artificial Intelligence challenge is organised ever and we are very honored to carry out such a bi-national initiative!” commented Prof. Harald Kosch, Vice-President at the University of Passau in charge of the AI-Cup, who has been forging and leading some very active French-German scientific dialogue for many years. *“Through our French-German cooperation, we can significantly increase the potential of successful startups in AI.”* added Prof. Michael Granitzer, Professor of data science, who leads the AI cup’s scientific committee. *“The data-providers have been wonderful, ATOS delivers a great support, and the joint work with our French partner, led by Prof. Mathilde Mougeot, holder of the Industrial Chair for Industrial Data Analytics and Machine Learning at ENS-Paris-Saclay and Professor at Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Informatique pour l’Industrie et l’Entreprise (ENSIIE) and her team, demonstrates fully that French-German cooperation is not only feasible but also an added-value in the transfer from research into innovation.”* Udo Littke, Head of Atos Central Europe adds: *„As a European company with two headquarters – in Paris and Munich – we see a perfect match between culture and business. I am particularly pleased that our clients E.ON and Trading Hub Europe are great in supporting this challenge, providing real cases and data sets.“*

Regarding the content of the competition, the five data providers are already known: Deutsche Bahn Regio, E.ON, Trading Hub Europe Germany, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and the Centre Borelli. And the overall theme of the AI Cup is also public: “AI for a better world”.



All additional **information on the tasks will be made public on the 9th March**, when registration for the AI-Cup teams and talents will open. The information session will also be recorded and accessible online after the event.

More information: <https://www.ai-cup.uni-passau.de/en/>

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Gründerland Bayern



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Indicative time-line

Public opening of the AI cup: 9th March 2022, 14:30 digitally, at the following link:

<https://uni-passau.zoom.us/j/96715508596?pwd=YkZkeElvQ29VQ28zNHZRd1dPN2QrZz09>

Meeting ID: 967 1550 8596

Passcode: 531971

Registration: 9th March – 29th April 2022 6 pm

Scientific AI/data science challenge: May – July 2022

Demonstration of business robustness: July - August 2022

Evaluation: September – October 2022

Price Ceremony: October 2022 (tbc)

Support provided for a year (October 2022 – October 2023)