



## **Joint Agreement**

### **Between**

**Plattform Industrie 4.0, Germany**

**and**

**Smart Industry, The Netherlands**

**on cooperation to fasttrack the digital transformation of the industry (Industrie 4.0).**

The Plattform Industrie 4.0 of Germany and the Smart Industry Program (“the Sides”),

- recognise in particular that digitalisation and linkage of the production processes along the value chains via the internet, a process referred to as “Industrie 4.0”, can boost the economies of both countries;
- emphasise that cooperation between the industry-driven initiatives, companies, universities, and research institutions in the field of digitalisation and Industrie 4.0 might have a positive impact on the competitiveness of their industrial sectors, and
- confirm their mutual interest in promoting bilateral relations in the field of Industrie 4.0 and digitizing manufacturing.

Therefore, the sides have come to the following understanding:

### ***1. International Cooperation***

The Sides intend to exchange views, goals, strategies, recommendations and best practices regarding digitalisation and in particular Industrie 4.0. The target of the cooperation is to make a sustained effort to promote, facilitate and support joint initiatives within their industry sectors, acknowledging the strength of the innovation capabilities in both countries. This includes the exploration of common interests and joint contributions in international fora and the promotion of activities in international organisations related to the areas of cooperation mentioned previously.

## **2. Cooperation Framework**

The Sides intend to set up regular consultations on Industrie 4.0 and Digitizing Manufacturing. The cooperation could include, but is not limited to:

- Delegation visits to each country
- Invitation to specific international events as a speaker or panelist
- Invitation of Industrie 4.0 experts to (technical) workshops, in fields of common interest (decided by case)
- Joint use-cases via Labs Network Industrie 4.0 e.V. & the network of Smart Industry Fieldlabs
- (Mutual) presence and presentation at important fairs like Hannover Messe

It is the desire of both Sides to continually evaluate the progress of the possible cooperation mechanisms and identify the areas where further collaboration is required. Therefore, an annual meeting should be scheduled to look at progress, set specify goals and also measure the cooperation's success.

The Sides intend to invite relevant experts from the public and private sectors to contribute to the cooperation.

## **3. Areas of Cooperation**

The cooperation could include, but is not limited to the following topics:

- Standardisation incl. the administration shell
- Industrial cybersecurity
- Industrie 4.0 use cases
- Qualification and training
- Research and development
- Legal regulatory framework
- Digital Business Models
- Joined efforts for EU-Calls/-Proposals

## **4. Financial Considerations**

The cooperation within this Joint Agreement is subject to and dependent on available funding and resources from each side.

The sides will assume the costs incurred by themselves, unless otherwise jointly decided in writing.

### **5. Cooperation Period**

It is the common understanding of the sides that this Joint Agreement will be honored up to the end of 2021 and may be extended for another period of the same length if the sides express an interest in writing in this regard.

Either of the Sides can decide to discontinue the cooperation on the basis of this Joint Agreement. In this case, notice should be given in writing at least ninety (90) days prior to the intended discontinuation.

This Joint Agreement has been exchanged between both sides on the occasion of the visit of their Majesties Willem-Alexander, King of the Netherlands, and Maxima, Queen of the Netherlands, to Germany on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2018.



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