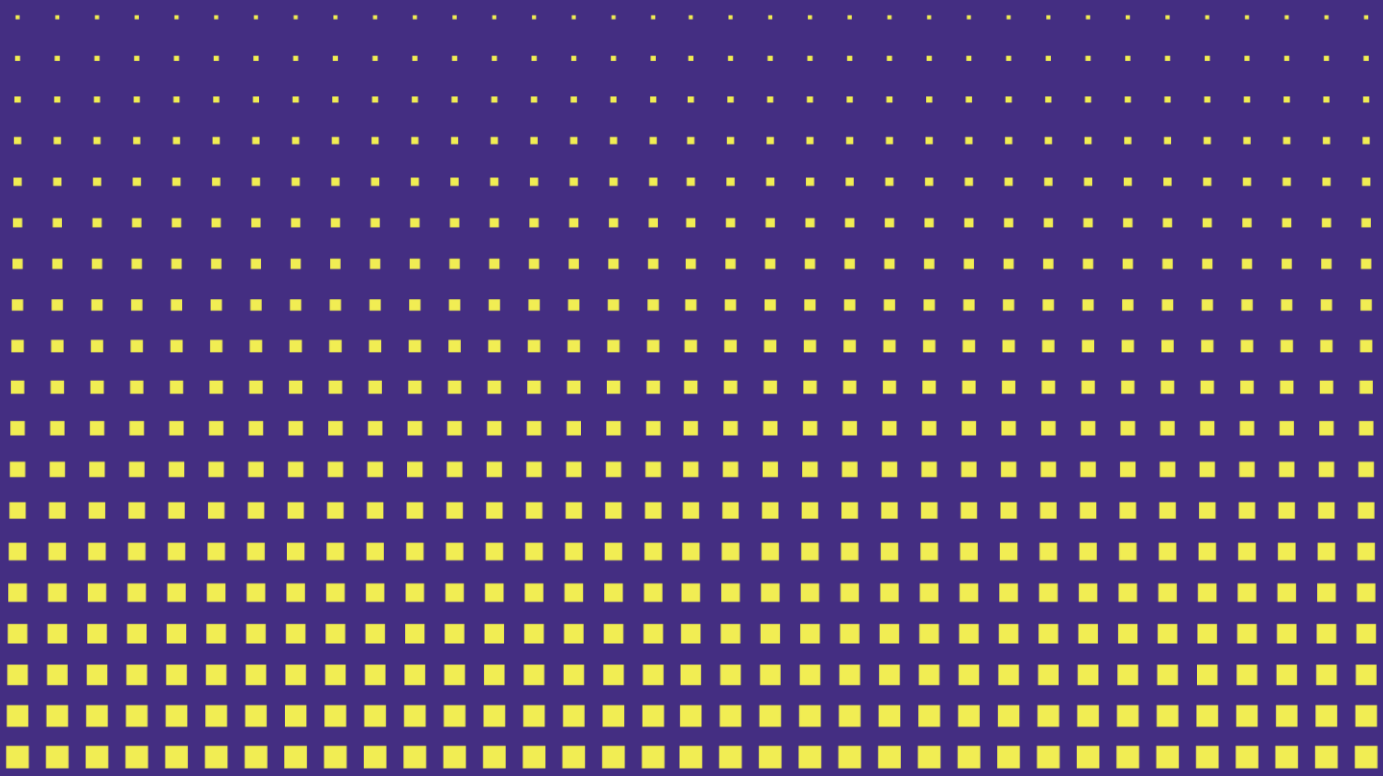


MISSION KI PRESS RELEASE



Gefördert durch:



aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages

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c /o acatech
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MISSION
KI Nationale Initiative für
Künstliche Intelligenz
und Datenökonomie

MISSION KI

Press Release

MISSION KI - National Initiative for Artificial Intelligence and Data Economy is a project of acatech - German Academy of Science and Engineering, funded with 32 million euros by the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport (BMDV). The project aims to strengthen digital competitiveness and serves as a lever project of the Digital Strategy, addressing two fields of action: it supports the development of unified standards and improves the availability and discoverability of data.

MISSION KI pursues three objectives: The project aims to expand the data basis for AI innovations by connecting data spaces across sectors and country boundaries. MISSION KI intends to develop and test transparent AI quality and testing standards according to German and European values. To this end, AI Innovation & Quality Centers will be established, serving as testing and experimentation environments as well as public experience spaces. Additionally, the initiative aims to support the growth of AI innovations by developing instruments to strengthen the transfer and scaling of AI applications in economic value creation.

A cooperative approach is pursued throughout. This is achieved, on one hand, by networking and complementing the many good approaches and foundations in Germany and Europe. For example, there is close cooperation with DFKI and IPAI in Germany, as well as with the Data Spaces Support Center (DSSC) and the International Data Spaces Association (IDSA) at the European level. On the other hand, an open dialogue is conducted, and all actors are invited to participate in this process and contribute their own input to the mission. Round tables bring together experts from science, business, civil society, and politics to jointly discover ways in which each individual can contribute to strengthening MISSION KI - and thus strengthening Germany as an AI location.

PILLAR 1: Networking Data Spaces Across Sectors

By networking data spaces across sectors and countries, we are expanding the database and making data usable for new, valuable AI applications. Through cross-sector AI use cases, we are successively identifying and solving the challenges of networking different data spaces from a practical perspective. This is based on both existing data spaces, such as the Mobility Data Space, and those that are currently being developed. Specifically, relevant technological standards and tools for networking data spaces are being trialled. At the same time, the necessary governance structures are being analyzed as the basis for cross-sector business models.

Example Use Case:

- **FAIR Digital Objects (FDOs)**

This funding project aims to demonstrate the potential of FAIR Digital Objects (FDOs) for data exchange between different data spaces and aims to establish flexible and secure standards for data exchange.

More Information: <https://mission-ki.de/en/funding-project-fair-digital-objects/>

In this way, we are driving forward the development of a comprehensive data ecosystem and strengthening the basis for the digital competitiveness of the German economy. Small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular, can benefit from sovereign data exchange in data spaces by gaining access to new data sources and collaborations that are crucial for the development of data- and AI-based business models.

With the aim of European connectivity, we are working closely with European and international initiatives such as the Data Spaces Support Center (DSSC) or the International Data Spaces Association (IDSA).

PILLAR 2: Creating Transparent Quality and Testing Standards

In order to create planning security in the development of AI applications and to strengthen confidence in the use of AI applications, we need transparent and uniform AI quality and testing standards in line with European values and taking into account the requirements of the AI Act.

Companies are obliged to assess their AI systems and the associated risk at the latest when the AI Act comes into force. Through a suitable conformity assessment, companies must prove that the requirements for trustworthy AI are met.

Norms and standards should help to ensure that AI systems are trustworthy, safe, inclusive, and sustainable. They define the safety requirements that AI systems must fulfil before they come onto the market - such as transparency, accuracy, explainability, or quality. Norms and standards can thus make a decisive contribution to protection against bias, discrimination, or manipulation.

For high-risk AI applications, the AI Act will be very specific in its requirements. For AI applications below the high-risk threshold, however, there remains only a transparency obligation. As part of MISSION AI, we want to provide all AI applications with a voluntary AI quality standard based on German and European values. A standard that offers an independent course of action and promises compliance with minimum requirements, determined on the basis of uniform AI testing standards.

In cooperation with leading testing and standardization institutions, MISSION KI is developing and testing a voluntary AI quality standard that represents a minimum standard of AI quality for specific applications. The AI quality standard consists of criteria (e.g., for trustworthy AI) as well as test procedures and methods. Dimensions of the quality standard are, for example, transparency, reliability, fairness, data protection and management, and cybersecurity.

An implementation partnership consisting of PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH, TÜV AI.Lab GmbH, VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies, CertifAI GmbH, AI Quality & Testing Hub GmbH from Hesse, and Fraunhofer Institute for Intelligent Analysis and Information Systems IAIS won the competition and was awarded the contract in November 2023.

The voluntary AI quality and testing standard is being developed in four work packages:

- **WP1:** Selection of suitable use cases
- **WP2:** Conception and development of the AI test procedure
- **WP3:** Testing and further development of the AI test procedure
- **WP4:** Establishment of a voluntary quality standard

The MISSION KI's quality standard focuses on AI applications that are below high-risk cases (classified according to the European AI Regulation) but its content will also be compatible with the requirements of the AI Regulation for high-risk applications. In order to develop a marketable AI quality and testing standard, a use case-based procedure will be used for testing. For this purpose, use cases are currently being identified that offer broad sectoral and horizontal coverage. To account for the further development of AI applications and the associated potentially increasing risk, high-risk AI applications are also included.

The conformity assessment bodies can implement the test standards in their independent certifications. This makes an important contribution to ensuring that users can trust AI systems and use them with confidence. This strengthens the marketability of AI applications and thus the competitiveness of German companies.

Innovation & Quality Centers

Within the framework of AI Innovation & Quality Centers, we provide the necessary testing and experimental environment to test and further develop AI quality and testing standards in real use cases. At the same time, the centers offer an experience space for the general public. Centers in Berlin and Kaiserslautern are starting things off.

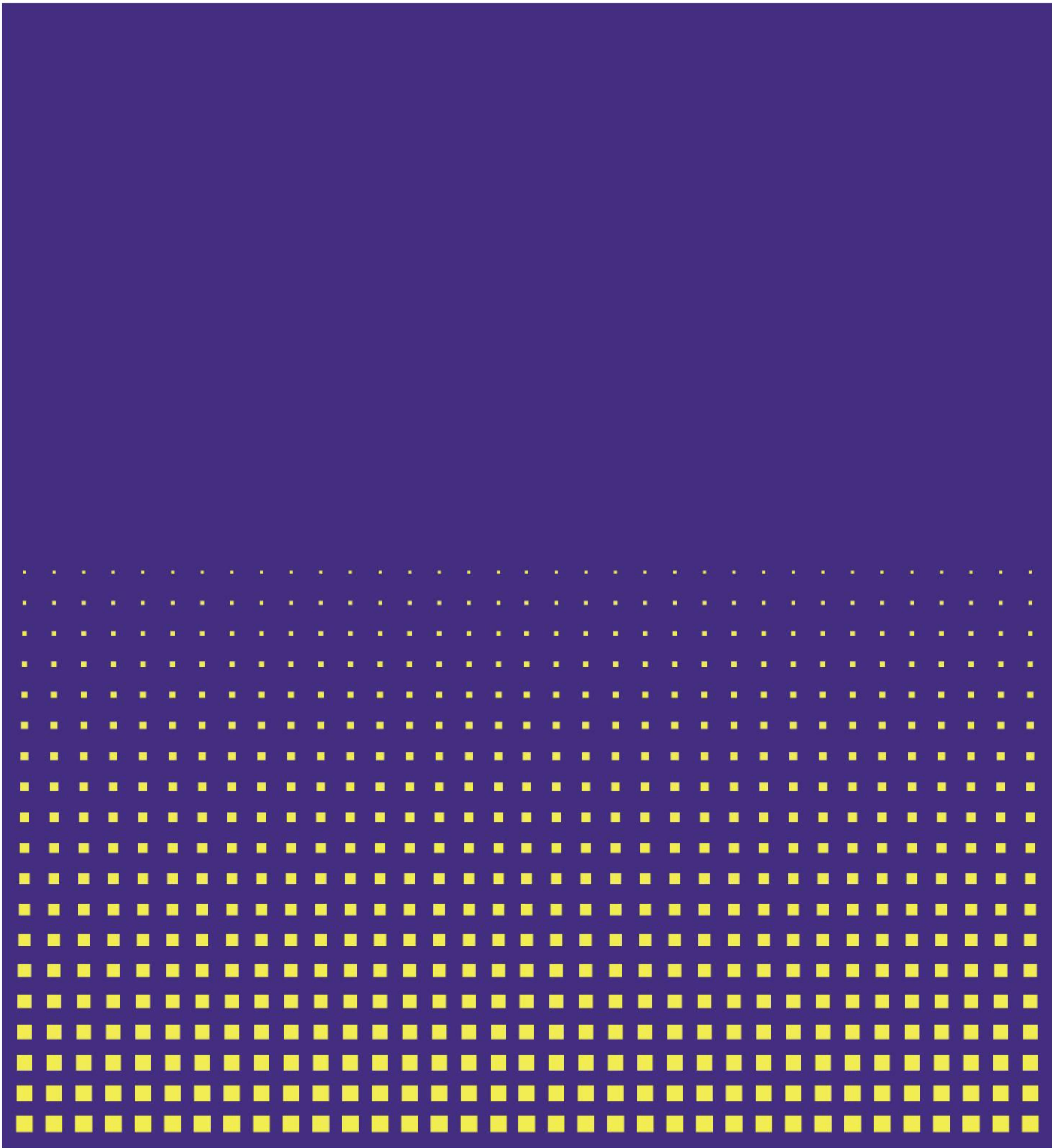
The IQZ Kaiserslautern, located at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), will promote the development of AI quality and testing standards at the interface between cutting-edge research and practical application. It will primarily serve small and medium-sized enterprises, but also potential start-ups, as a contact point and experimental environment for all aspects of trustworthy AI. DFKI Kaiserslautern will support MISSION AI both in terms of implementation and research, with a particular focus on methods for ensuring the quality of AI applications in the medical field.

The AI Center in Berlin will initially serve as a contact point for the general public and make AI tangible - real-life application examples will be shown, and the functioning of AI will be made transparent.

PILLAR 3: Supporting the Growth of AI Innovations

We develop instruments to accelerate the transfer of strong AI research into practice as well as the growth of outstanding AI innovations. To this end, we bring AI founders together with investors and companies.

In summer 2024, we introduced a matchmaking format as a first step to connect medium-sized companies with AI start-ups from Germany. This format utilizes the strength of the German SME sector, which accounts for almost half of the world's hidden champions and promotes the exchange of innovative strength and specific sector expertise. Through regular events, we strengthen collaboration and accelerate the introduction of AI applications in real-world use cases to quickly achieve valuable innovations.



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