



Press Release

13 October 2022

Facing the future: IMPACT FESTIVAL welcomes more than 2500 guests

Exhibiting start-ups, speakers and corporates discuss solutions for sustainable and digital transformation

On October 5 and 6, 2022, the IMPACT FESTIVAL, Europe's largest B2B trade fair for sustainable innovations, celebrated its second edition at the Fredenhagenhalle in Offenbach am Main. With more than 2500 guests, 100 speakers, over 100 investors and 170 start-ups, the event acted as a meeting place for the relevant stakeholders of digital and sustainable change. "At the IMPACT FESTIVAL, we offer sustainable solutions a platform to become visible to companies and investors," said Mara Steinbrenner, co-lead of the event. Her counterpart Linda Köpper adds, "The time to act sustainably is right now. We can't wait until politicians agree on regulations." The IMPACT FESTIVAL aims to fulfill this pioneering role with continuing event and lecture series until the next edition in 2023.

Lectures, panels, masterclasses and exhibition were structured along seven innovation areas aligned with the EU Green Deal and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. Lecture highlights included keynotes by the Hessian Minister of Economics Tarek Al-Wazir, climate researcher Hans Joachim Schellnhuber and entrepreneur and investor Verena Pausder. In the IMPACT ART project, which was realized in cooperation with the Business Administration Department of Alanus University, visitors of the IMPACT FESTIVAL could experience the digital and sustainable change in a creative way.

The most promising start-ups were honored with the IMPACT AWARD on the evening of October 5. HEDERA won in the category "Education & Social Innovation". MAGNOTHERM got the award in the category "Hardware Solutions" and the start-up ecoligo in "Platform & Software (SaaS) Solutions". The audience crowned everwave as the winner of the Audience Award. In addition to more than 100 other start-ups, established companies and partners of the IMPACT FESTIVAL such as StartHub Hessen, machine manufacturer Zühlke, Deutsche Börse or EY and Deloitte also attended the event as exhibitors.

In cooperation with Climate Action partner ClimateSeed, the IMPACT FESTIVAL took place with as few CO₂ emissions as possible and a less-waste concept. The exclusively vegan catering was served in reusable containers by PIZZycle and FairCup. Hydro stations from Luqel provided guests with free water. The event also worked with service providers with a sustainable business approach. The IMPACT FESTIVAL offset remaining CO₂ emissions through donations to selected projects via ClimateSeed.



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The IMPACT FESTIVAL first took place in September 2021. In addition to the annual two-day event, the project acts as a platform for key stakeholders of the sustainable transformation to network and exchange ideas year-round through the IMPACT COMMUNITY. With an extensive supporting program, including IMPACT WEEK, webinars, the podcast IMPACT TALK and an online magazine, the IMPACT FESTIVAL pursues the goal of accelerating sustainable transformation throughout the year.

The IMPACT FESTIVAL is a project of the neosfer GmbH, early-stage investor and innovation unit of Commerzbank Group. It investigates future technologies that are relevant to business and society and promotes and develops sustainable, digital solutions. All of this is done through the three areas of invest, build, connect. It creates access to innovation through strategic venture capital (invest), in-house development of technologies and business models (build), and building ecosystems around the sustainable and digital future of society (connect).

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