House of IT Security

HOUSE OF IT-SECURITY

House of IT-Security GmbH
c/o WIBU-SYSTEMS AG
Oliver Winzenried
Rueppurrer Strasse 52-54
76137 Karlsruhe, Germany
Tel.: +49/721/93172-0
Fax: +49/721/93172-22

E-Mail: oliver.winzenried@wibu.com

2020-04-27

1   Why a "House of IT-Security" for Karlsruhe?

"Several cyber incidents over the past months and years have again revealed to us that cyber-security is an essential ingredient for a successful digital revolution." (Horst Seehofer[1])

Digitalization has brought many new risks and challenges to the fore that have shown the value of high-quality and secure software and hardware. The continued prosperity of almost all businesses in Germany depend on IT security as a fundamental technology enabling their success. This is only increasing in relevance the closer the world gets to a future of artificial intelligence, digitalization, and connected infrastructures. One way to boost innovation in IT security is co-working[2]: Giving knowledge workers a shared space to collaborate with peers from other companies and freelances. In their study on co-working, Fraunhofer IAO[3] revealed that companies indeed become more innovative when they opt for co-working spaces. Most of the companies surveyed by the Fraunhofer Institute see great opportunities for seizing important strategic advantages by engaging in corporate co-working.

On top of providing temporary access to new team or project workspaces and all-inclusive services, co-working can be an inspiring environment that supercharges the innovative capacities of project teams and motivate employees to be more independent, accept responsibility for their work, and manage themselves more effectively. Other benefits offered by co-working spaces include:
- Professionally furnished office spaces (many with premium equipment) and comprehensive infrastructure services
- Meeting spaces for shared use
- Fully furnished communal spaces, including kitchens, lounge areas, and bars
- Top flexibility for leases (space and length of lease)

2   USP and Potential of the House of IT Security

Compared to conventional co-working or shared office spaces, the House of IT Security is dedicated to one and only one issue: the security of our IT infrastructure. Its facilities will be leased **exclusively to public and private organizations and researchers working on IT security.** The purpose-built facilities include **advanced building automation and security installations** designed with the needs of IT security businesses in mind. This comprises, in particular, **redundant fiber optic connections, specialized access controls,** and optional bug-proofing of sensitive areas. An **attractive environment for hosting business meetings, top-flight equipment** for workplaces, **IT security labs,** and communal spaces with a range of other amenities are standard at the House of IT Security. While standard co-working spaces offer an average of 67 desks[4], the House of IT Security includes only 12 + 2x5 desks for co-working to allow a pleasant and calm working experience in a relaxed atmosphere. These are complemented by closed (single-user) offices and several open-plan office spaces from 200 to 500 square meters.

The decision to focus on a single topic and bring together handpicked tenants from the field in a "physical beacon" forms an unprecedented pool of competences. It gives its tenants the exceptional opportunity to form a productive network with other IT experts, especially from the Karlsruhe IT security ecosystem, and opens up new avenues for co-operation beyond their own companies' limits. The unique environment promises to attract established companies interested in pursuing their IT security projects in Karlsruhe. It is Wibu-Systems' ambition to give IT security research and practice a vital boost by giving excellent researchers and companies in the field a new home and contributing its own IT security services and expertise.

3   Wibu-Systems in Karlsruhe: The Perfect Home for the House of IT-Security

Karlsruhe lies at the heart of a cluster of software enterprises that has already earned the moniker "Europe's Silicon Valley for Enterprise Software": With around 134,000 people working at more than eleven thousand software companies and three dedicated centers of competence for IT security research[5] as well as the local universities' computer science departments and research institutes regularly featured near the top of international research rankings, the region is the perfect seedbed for strong R&D output in IT security. Karlsruhe itself is one of the top-4 locations for Europe's IT sector, with around 4200 IT enterprises forming an exceptional pool of IT competence in the city and its environs. These simple facts reveal why Karlsruhe is the perfect choice for a new innovation hub for IT security – the House of IT Security. The region's research institutes, IT security experts and enterprises, and innovative SMEs using their IT security solutions are expected to share and cross-pollinate their expertise and competences and bridge the gap between technological innovation and practical use, following the successful model of the American Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (Darpa). The immense synergies will benefit from the close proximity of the different actors in the House of IT Security, which allows immediate sharing of expertise and facilitates cooperation. In the medium-term future, the Karlsruhe ecosystem will attract international enterprises and/or new research organizations to the region.

The House of IT Security is already being hailed as an invaluable addition to that ecosystem of Baden-Wuerttemberg by all local actors (KIT, KA-IT-SI, FZI, CyberForum, Cyberwehr Baden-Wuerttemberg) and industry associations like bitkom and the VDMA.

The new Wibu-Systems campus lies in the heart of Karlsruhe, in immediate vicinity to the high-speed rail station and local trams (5 minutes walking distance). The Citypark, only 100 m from the site, is a great place to spend a relaxing break, and several restaurants and caterers in the neighborhood are there to serve every appetite.

4   Concept and Use Plan

The House of IT Security is being built as part of the construction of Wibu-Systems' new head offices and is expected to open for business in March 2021. **The House of IT-Security GmbH**[6] was launched in late 2018 to lay the **groundwork for the new building**[7]. The entire ground floor and parts of the first floor are given over to a special IT security co-working space, including the following facilities:

Ground floor:	**First floor:**
1 large conference space (45 sqm) for approx. 20 people	1 large conference room (45 sqm) for approx. 20 people
1 café bar and bistro with approx. 30 lounge and drop-down workplaces	4 Think-Tanks
10 flex-desk places (single or double)	1 locker area
Work benches (for 4 people)	20 flex-desk places (single or double)
3 group desks for 3 to 6 people	4 work benches (for 4 people)
4 think-tanks	4 group desks for 6 people
1 reception desk with concierge service	1 piazza with 20 lounge and drop-down workplaces
1 locker area	1 meeting room (21 sqm) for approx. 12 people
1 opt. separate unit (185 sqm) as combined office or open-plan space	1 meeting room (23 sqm) for approx. 12 people
1 storage and lab space (dividable, total 55 sqm)	1 opt. separate unit (approx. 500 sqm) as combined office or open-plan space
Sanitary facilities with restrooms and showers (including wheelchair accessible)	

The entire working and networking concept benefits from exceptional infrastructure and attractive catering services, fitting in with the appealing furniture and facilities chosen for the contemporary look of the workspaces. One or two members of staff should be on site to organize and support the tenants (e.g. with coordinating their cooperation, assisting with public R&D project applications), optionally as part of a ZIM network project. On top of its unique focus on IT security, the facilities include superfast Internet, professional printers and scanners, cleaning services, a bistro, IT support, high-tech access controls with 24/7 access, bike and car parking and e-vehicle charging station.

The building was designed to use energy-efficient and comfortable district heating and cold-water air conditioning, using heating / cooling panels, Enocean sensors and switches, WAGO environmental controls for heating, cooling, ventilation, blinds, occupancy sensors, and bus-driven DALI lights and blinds. The second floor also includes 200 sqm and 300 sqm units as well as separate 500 sqm spaces in the Wibu-Systems building. The House of IT Security is already looking forward to welcoming its first full tenant, Disy Informationssysteme GmbH, occupying approx. 3000 sqm for a ten-year lease.

---

[1] in: Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik (BSI): Die Lage der IT-Sicherheit in Deutschland 2019

[2] Co-working by companies and research institutes to promote innovation

[3] Klaus-Peter Stiefel, Stefan Rief: Coworking - Innovationstreiber für Unternehmen. ed.: Wilhelm Bauer, Fraunhofer IAO. Stuttgart: Fraunhofer Verlag, 2017

[4] Results of the 2018 Global Co-Working Survey for Germany (http://www.deskmag.com/de/coworking-spaces-in-deutschland-2018-marktre port-studie-erhebung-993)

[5] CISPA (Saarbrücken), CRISP (Darmstadt), and KASTEL (Karlsruhe)

[6] Registered at the Mannheim Register Court: HRB 732472, with a capital stock of €25,000, held by: 40% WIBU-SYSTEMS AG, 40% IBA Immobilien Anlage und Beteiligungs GmbH, 20% Oliver Winzenried

[7] Infrastructure for the development of certifiable security products (redundant infrastructure, special access controls, and opt. bug-proofing in sensitive areas)