**Schwarz Digits becomes part of the "Next Level Mittelstand" initiative to promote digital transformation**

* **Schwarz Digits sends a strong signal about the importance of digital sovereignty with practical use cases.**
* **Schwarz Digits will be part of the "Next Level Mittelstand" (NLM) initiative to actively shape the digital transformation of German and European SMEs.**
* **Schwarz Digits will be represented at the Hannover Messe in Hall 17, Stand F32 with its complete product suite of solutions for strengthening digital sovereignty.**

**Neckarsulm, 31. March 2025 –** Schwarz Digits will be presenting the latest developments and solutions in the field of digital sovereignty at the Hannover Messe. "We live in a time of global tensions, characterized by political conflicts and geopolitical rivalries. In order not to be dependent on other countries in the future, we need to strengthen national and European solutions," emphasizes Rolf Schumann, Co-CEO of Schwarz Digits.

"In order to strengthen Europe's digital sovereignty from Germany, Schwarz Digits offers sovereign solutions in the areas of cloud, cyber security, artificial intelligence, communication and workspace," adds Christian Müller, Co-CEO of Schwarz Digits. At the Schwarz Digits stand, visitors will have the opportunity to experience various use cases and applications from the five core areas. These include solutions relating to NIS2 and ransomware, the STACKIT Cloud and the DataHub Europe, a platform that aggregates, processes and curates data from industry and the media landscape. This high-quality data is made available to partners to train AI models in a secure and trustworthy infrastructure.

**Digital excellence for SMEs**

Schwarz Digits has joined the "Next Level Mittelstand" (NLM) initiative in order to strengthen the competitiveness of German and European SMEs in the long term compared to international players. The initiative brings together SMEs, start-ups and IT experts. The focus is on practice-oriented knowledge transfer and the successful implementation of digital strategies. NLM offers a platform for the exchange of information on artificial intelligence and GenAI, data ecosystems, industrial production including integrated digital technologies and the digital future.

"A particular focus is on networking SMEs in order to promote cooperation and exploit synergies. In this way, we are creating a broad network in the SME sector and strengthening Germany from within," says Bernd Wagner, Divisional Board Member Schwarz Digits and CEO STACKIT, explaining the decision. Henrik Schunk, Chairman of the Board SCHUNK SE & Co. KG and founding member of the initiative, confirms: "Medium-sized companies form the backbone of our economy. With NLM, we offer SMEs a space in which practical solutions for digital transformation can be developed quickly, pragmatically and collaboratively. In Schwarz Digits, we have gained a visionary partner for the path to digital sovereignty."

**More Information**

Further information can be found at [www.schwarz-digits.de](http://www.schwarz-digits.de).

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**About SCHUNK SE & Co. KG**

SCHUNK has been shaping innovations for 80 years. The technology pioneer in the field of clamping technology, gripping technology and automation technology strives to create productivity gains for its customers and partners in the industry. The 3,700 employees of the family-owned company in 75 countries are committed to this. SCHUNK develops future technologies for numerous industries, from automotive to electronics and aerospace to life science, based on close partnerships with its customers, many years of expertise and cooperation in expert networks. A comprehensive portfolio of components, applications, systems and services helps to make production more efficient and resource-saving - all from a single source.

**About Schwarz Digits**

Schwarz Digits is the IT and digital division of Schwarz Group and offers impressive digital products and services that meet the high German data protection standards. With the aim of achieving the greatest possible digital sovereignty, Schwarz Digits provides the IT infrastructure and solutions for the extensive ecosystem of Schwarz Group's companies and develops it for the future. Schwarz Digits' sovereign core services include Cloud, Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Communication and Workplace. In addition, Schwarz Digits creates optimal conditions for the development of trend-setting innovations for end customers, companies and public sector organizations. Schwarz Digits includes 7,500 employees of the brands STACKIT, XM Cyber, Schwarz Media, mmmake, Schwarz IT, Schwarz Digital, Lidl e-commerce and Kaufland e-commerce.