



Interview with Reinhold Achatz on “Data Sovereignty and Data Ecosystems”

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BISE: What is the importance of data sovereignty for innovation in enterprise networks and business ecosystems?

Achatz: Today, numerous companies have understood that data is a valuable source for optimizing their own processes—from manufacturing to sales. Likewise, companies can generate new business models and thus additional business based on the knowledge contained in data. This

benefit is often only made possible through or increased by the exchange and transfer of data. However, this is currently not happening or only to a limited extent, because companies fear to lose control over the use of data when sharing them. An ecosystem, which guarantees an appropriate form of data sovereignty, can solve this problem.

BISE: You are Chairman of the Board of the International Data Spaces (IDS) Association: What is the goal of this initiative and what contribution does IDS make to the digitization of the economy?

Achatz: Since the International Data Spaces initiative offers a standardized architecture and interfaces that guarantee data sovereignty, it provides the solution to the problem just described. In addition to the functionality provided, standardization and market penetration are also important, and in this way everyone can use these advantages with little effort.

BISE: US-American and Asian providers dominate the platform economy: Does Europe need its own solutions?

Achatz: American data platforms provide most of the benefits only to the strong player who makes the platform available, while the user of the platform reveals his data for little benefit. The Chinese data-philosophy is very much driven by the central state. Europe wants to provide the benefits of using data based on European values to all, including individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises. The IDS offers this opportunity. Thanks to its openness, the functionality of the IDS can also be integrated into the implementation based on other philosophies, for example the American or the Chinese.

BISE: Data is generated in sensors, preprocessed and stored and then used for smart services and artificial intelligence applications: Where do you see the biggest challenges in this data value chain?

Achatz: In order to make data available, it has to be connected, processed and standardized. To this now usable data base, algorithms, such as artificial intelligence, can be

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applied. The effort of data processing is often underestimated. In industrial applications, this can reach 80 percent of the total cost.

BISE: Back to the IDS: Which use cases is thyssenkrupp currently implementing based on the IDS architecture?

Achatz: thyssenkrupp recognized the benefits of IDS at a very early stage. Therefore, we have already gained

experience with IDS in the optimization of transport logistics and in the field of decentralized additive manufacturing. We are currently in discussion with partners aiming to provide our customer with additional information about materials and products delivered by us, which then allows them to optimize further processing.