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“Smartport Transfer” Innovation Community Celebrates Kick-off Event

Advancing Bremen's ports through digitalization and automation – that is the goal of the Smartport Transfer (SPorT) innovation community, which is sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). It will celebrate its kick-off event on May 22.

The event at the German Emigration Center in Bremerhaven (Columbusstraße 65) is aimed at both the interested public and press representatives. It will take place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Afterwards, the SPorT management team will be available for press questions and interviews. Those interested can register until May 18 at sport@bremenports.de.

The event will provide information about the goals and further planning as well as funding opportunities for individual community projects. In addition, the kick-off meeting aims to attract as many new members as possible from and around the ports in order to grow the SPorT community and establish it as a permanent structure for knowledge transfer.

Increasing Competitiveness and Resilience of German Ports

SPorT is a joint initiative of the University of Bremen, the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL), and Bremen's ports, which is being carried out as part of the DATIpilot federal funding program. The planned community projects will focus, among other things, on the planning, monitoring, and control of container and vehicle handling processes for piece goods and bulk cargo. The community also intends to address the question of how shipping and hinterland transport, for example by freight trains, can be linked to port operations using information technology. These technologies are not an end in themselves, but are intended to increase the competitiveness of German ports and their resilience to market fluctuations and disruptions in supply chains through cooperative and people-centered design.

The new alliance does not have to start from scratch: The Smartport Strategy developed jointly with the port industry for the Bremen ports in 2024 serves as a basis. In addition, the Bremen Research Cluster for Dynamics in Logistics (LogDynamics) at the University of Bremen and the Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics (ISL) are contributing their decades of academic research experience in the field of maritime logistics. The applicants and coordinators of the new SPorT community are the Bremen ports via the port management company bremenports, the ISL, and the University of Bremen.

Transfer of Knowledge into Practical Application: The DATIpilot Program

Within the framework of SPorT, science and industry will not only engage in an open exchange within a joint innovation community, but will also pull together in jointly coordinated measures and projects – in line with the Federal Ministry of Education and Research's DATIpilot program. The aim is to transfer knowledge from research into practical applications, while at the same time creating scope for the implementation of innovative ideas. This is where the activities of the new SPorT community come into play, which aims to bundle the region's great creative and innovative

potential in the field of maritime economy and logistics. The idea behind this is that the challenges posed by dynamic developments can be mastered more easily and effectively through close cooperation between research, industry, and authorities. In addition, developments can thus find their way into effective application more quickly. With this approach, the new project was selected from almost 500 applications from all over Germany and is now – together with another project in Bremen – one of only 20 initiatives nationwide to receive funding.

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