



**Press release**

**Next step for TELLUS:  
GAIA-X research project led by DE-CIX receives funding  
notification from the German Federal Ministry of  
Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK)**

**Frankfurt am Main, 25 February 2022.** DE-CIX, the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges, has received the official funding notification from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) for approximately 8.75 million Euro for the TELLUS project, in conjunction with Gaia-X. Funding is provided through the funding competition "Innovative and Practical Applications and Data Spaces in the Gaia-X Digital Ecosystem (Gaia-X Funding Competition)". The goal of TELLUS is to provide a Gaia-X network infrastructure for critical applications through a Gaia-X compliant interconnection platform.

DE-CIX leads the TELLUS consortium, which includes nine further participating companies: Cloud&Heat, KAEMI, Mimetik, plusserver, CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security, SpaceNet, WOBKOM, TRUMPF and IONOS. In total, the BMWK provided approximately 122 million Euro to 11 different winning consortia in the first round of approvals.

"We are very pleased to be able to drive forward the TELLUS project with the help of funding from the BMWK and together with our consortium partners, thus bringing a core of Gaia-X to life: A secure, interconnected, and federated data infrastructure with a focus on data sovereignty. TELLUS is based on real-world use cases and will be widely applied within the Gaia-X ecosystem for high-performance interconnection of dataspaces and services," explains Dr. Christoph Dietzel, Global Head of Products & Research at DE-CIX.

**For critical applications: TELLUS network independent of public Internet**

In the TELLUS project, DE-CIX is developing a Gaia-X compliant interconnection platform with the other partners. In addition, multiple cloud providers are to be connected via DE-CIX and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) both to each other and to other providers and customers, and integrated software instances and homogeneous interfaces are to form a Gaia-X network infrastructure. This network infrastructure – independent of the public Internet, but still supported by its infrastructure – will thus link users and providers of federated cloud services,

i.e. critical applications such as AI applications, real-time data processing, or distributed software solutions.

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#### **About DE-CIX**

DE-CIX (German Commercial Internet Exchange) is the world's leading operator of Internet Exchanges. In total, in its 32 locations in Europe, North America, the Middle East, and Asia, DE-CIX interconnects close to 2500 network operators (carriers), Internet service providers (ISPs), content providers, and enterprise networks from more than 100 countries, offering peering, cloud, and interconnection services. The combined connected customer capacity of all DE-CIX locations worldwide exceeds 90 Terabits, making it the largest neutral interconnection ecosystem in the world. DE-CIX in Frankfurt, Germany, with a data throughput of more than 11 Terabits per second (Tbps) and over 1000 connected networks, is one of the largest Internet Exchanges in the world.

Further information at [www.de-cix.net](http://www.de-cix.net).

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