Munich-based cybersecurity specialist IDEE completes tech start-up programme run by UK cyber security experts

- Munich-based cybersecurity provider IDEE completes the UK National Cyber Security Centre's (NCSC) Cyber Accelerator programme and develops holistic threat model for IAM
- IDEE appoints former Chief of Research & Innovation of GCHQ, Daryl Burns, who joins IDEE as Executive Advisor

Munich, 12. January 2021 - IDEE, the Munich-based specialist for secure digital identities, has successfully completed the Cyber Accelerator Programme, run by the U.K. National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) – a part of GCHQ. During the course of the ten-week initiative which aims to support innovative cyber security start-ups in the UK, the company developed a holistic threat model for the evaluation of risks in Identity and Access Management (IAM), taking a unique passwordless and zero-trust identity approach. IDEE will further benefit from the expertise of former Chief of Research & Innovation of the British security agency GCHQ, Daryl Burns, who has been recruited as Executive Advisor. He will support IDEE in its future global expansion.

Organized by the NCSC in collaboration with the U.K. Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) and the Open Innovation Hub, Wayra U.K., the Cyber Accelerator programme looks to improve existing cybersecurity approaches by encouraging collaboration between nascent private cyber security companies and providing mentoring from the NCSC's technical experts. IDEE was selected to join the Cyber Accelerator to help develop its passwordless, zero-trust identity solution, which goes beyond classic zero trust strategies and ensures that the authenticity and integrity of both the users and devices are always independently verified with an immutable audit trail.

Holistic security concept for IAM

With IDEE, a holistic approach for protecting digital identities is now a reality. This is crucial because many companies consider only a single aspect, authentication, while disregarding access control, user provisioning and identity proofing. Unfortunately, such a fragmented approach makes unauthorized access an everyday occurrence. Dennis Okpara, Chief Security Architect at IDEE in London, explains the approach of the new model: "Thanks to the support from the NCSC's Accelerator programme, we have created a comprehensive threat model to help organizations assess their IAM risk and make better decisions. The threat model is based on the Center for Internet Security (CIS) risk assessment methodology, which is consistent with and extends established risk assessment standards such as ISO/IEC 27005, NIST SP 800-30 and RISK IT".

Chris Ensor, NCSC Deputy Director for Cyber Growth, said: "The Accelerator offers the NCSC the opportunity to combine our insights into cyber risk and deep expertise with agile companies like IDEE, who demonstrate exciting new ideas. We've thoroughly enjoyed working with IDEE and wish them every success for the future."

Innovative security approach convinces security experts

The security approach of IDEE and the innovative security concept has convinced Daryl Burns, who will be supporting IDEE as Executive Advisor. Daryl is the former GCHQ Chief of Research and Innovation and Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor for National Security. During his 34-year-long career, Daryl focused on cryptographic research and design and was responsible for steering multiple GCHQ initiatives involving digital identities and their protection. Daryl is an expert in cryptography and quantum technologies for cybersecurity.

He praised IDEE's architecture and said: "It was a pleasure and a rarity to see a digital identity solution so well crafted. Using a very mature risk model, IDEE has demonstrated empirically how to dramatically reduce risk by eliminating both passwords and insider threats".

The cryptography expert added, "I'm delighted to see that IDEE's architecture has been built on zero-trust, zero-knowledge and zero-PII principles. I see these as essential to provide the highest level of protection for the digital identities of citizens, employees, the supply chain, or IoT devices. I am looking forward to advising them as they scale-up globally".

About IDEE:

IDEE GmbH is a Cybersecurity vendor established in Munich delivering the most secure authentication and authorization SaaS offering available today. IDEE's AuthN™ is the truly passwordless zero -trust authentication and authorization service Made in Germany.

By truly eliminating passwords & credential databases AuthN™ removes not only all password related threats, but also reduces that immense pressure on budgets. AuthN™ has also been proven to enable transformation with a short time to result. The service is extendable based on industry standard protocols and can be applied to common and bespoke use cases in a wide range of applications and services, from ERP, CRM and UCC systems to HR applications.

Built on a zero-trust and zero-knowledge distributed-hyperledger architecture AuthN™ not only significantly increases security but also simplifies auditing and compliance. The built-in features such as advanced Multi-Party-Authorization & 3FA satisfy industry related regulatory requirements at no additional cost.

And this is why AuthN™ has gained the trust of CIOs and Identity and Access Management experts alike.

Supported by UK's NCSC & GCHQ IDEE GmbH is an active member of Bitkom and Teletrust in Germany with security and privacy by design as guiding principles. The company is based in Munich, with further locations in London and Belgrade.