Press release, 14 February 2020

Siemens joins the consortium for underground data centres

Regensdorf, February 14, 2020 - The Smart Infrastructure unit at Siemens Switzerland Ltd. intelligently connects energy systems, buildings and industries. Effective immediately, the company is contributing its know-how to the industrial consortium to jointly drive forward the continuous development of the underground data centre pilot scheme. The "Edge Computing - Underground" project thus takes a further step towards overcoming the spatial problems of future Smart Cities as well as fulfilling their sustainability requirements.

In autumn 2019, the prototype of a modularly designed data centre, developed for underground installation, was presented for the first time in the Hagerbach Test Gallery. The project, led by the Swiss Center of Applied Underground Technologies (SCAUT) together with the industrial partners Datwyler Cabling Solutions and Amberg Engineering, aims to use underground space for edge data centres in order to be close and energy efficient to the end-user and to save the limited and expensive space on the surface.

The Smart Infrastructure unit of Siemens Switzerland Ltd. officially joined the consortium as the third industrial partner at the beginning of February. Smart Infrastructure focuses on the intelligent connection of energy systems, buildings and industries to improve people's lifestyle and working conditions in infrastructures such as buildings. The company already has a great deal of expertise in the operation of sustainable energy systems. Since these are based on closed-loop technologies, they have a low carbon footprint. In the case of data centres, this applies particularly to energy consumption, energy storage and reuse.

A pilot project for the smart cities of the future

Automation, 5G, robotics, Internet of Things and artificial intelligence enable many new applications and business models, but already produce a large amount of data today. To ensure that these data can be processed efficiently and quickly on site, mini and micro data centres, so-called edge data centres, are already increasingly being used.

Cities and the urban areas of the future will have limited surface space. To overcome this constraint, the Swiss Center of Applied Underground Technologies (SCAUT) has developed the "Edge Computing - Underground" concept as a pilot project and proof of concept.

The underground – the unseen dimension

The concept is to place a large number of data centres underground. This environment offers protection against the forces of nature and, thanks to the stable climate, high energy efficiency

Amberg Engineering as specialist for underground engineering and Datwyler as specialist for data centres as well as edge computing are already industrial partners of SCAUT for this pilot project.

For further information, please visit our website or contact us:

https://edge-computing-underground.com/

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The Swiss Centre of Applied Underground Technologies (SCAUT) is the world's leading competency centre for the use of the underground space. It relies on high-end engineering, innovative solutions and most advanced ICT to make a substantial contribution to the creation of under-ground spaces for the future and to provide relief for metropolises and highly populated urban areas.

The SCAUT consortium working on the "Edge Computing – Underground" project consists of the following industry partners: Datwyler Cabling Solutions Ltd., Smart Infrastructure by Siemens and Amberg Engineering Ltd

Images:

Image 1:
Cheerful faces among the core team of the project "Edge Computing - Underground" after the entry of Smart Infrastructure by Siemens Switzerland Ltd. into the industrial consortium was signed.

From left to right:
Adrian Bolliger, Managing Director Europe, Datwyler Cabling Solutions Ltd.
Beat Schmid, Smart Infrastructure Branch Manager St. Gallen, Siemens Switzerland Ltd.
Peter Nebiker, Smart Infrastructure Head Area Zurich, Siemens Switzerland Ltd.
Antonia Cornaro, Business Development Manager, Amberg Engineering Ltd.
Klaus Wachter, Managing Director, SCAUT
Adrian Burri, Head of Services Europe, Datwyler Cabling Solutions Ltd.

Image 2:
The opening of the Edge Computing prototype took place last September in the Hagerbach Test Gallery.

Images: Amberg Engineering Ltd./Datwyler Cabling Solutions Ltd.