

Press Release
Smart Green Island Makeathon 2023, 01.-04.03.2023

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Making instead of gluing!

The concepts of climate change, digitalization and a shortage of skilled workers are currently being addressed by young people who glue themselves to the streets for publicity, or they are chewed up like chewing gum in never-ending talk shows. The concrete actions to address these issues in a substantial way, however, are in massive contrast to this in terms of number and media impact. That's why Engineer Dr. Rainer Stetter has been gathering Young Talents, Professors, and Companies around him for years to tackle concrete, though small, steps in a Make Marathon.

Garching, March 14th, 2023 – [The 6th SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON](#) gathered **over 600 interested participants from 29 countries on the Spanish Island of Gran Canaria** in early March. For **four days**, they enthusiastically worked on technical projects to shape a **sustainable future** and advance **digital progress** worldwide. Sponsors and Partners of the MAKEATHON include **national and international Companies, Universities, and Educational Institutions from Germany and Spain**, as well as the **President of the Island's Government, Antonio Morales**.

The [Innovation Festival](#) started with a revised concept after a two-year break from COVID pandemic. In organizing the MAKEATHON, [ITQ GmbH](#), a service provider for **Software and Systems Engineering**, placed particular emphasis on addressing all generations equally for the topics of "**Digital Education and Sustainability**". Thus, in addition to the SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON, with over **360 Students, Professors, Sponsors and Representatives of international Institutions**, there were three other workshop programs that inspired children and young people with simple to learn **Technology and Programming**. Around **200 students** between the ages of 6 and 18 were able to gain their first experience [building small Mechanical Cleaning Robots](#), [Programming LEGO Mindstorms](#), [Cobot Panda Robots](#), and [3D printing](#).

The aim of the Make Marathon from **March 01 to 04** was to get young people excited about digital progress and to enable them to work on sustainable ideas. The **Young Talents** gained important experience in Project Management and were able to deepen their Soft Skills through Teamwork and regular Status Presentations. Within just **four days**, the **first prototypes** were created that advance the idea of a **Smart Green Island** – a climate-neutral island of Gran Canaria – with the topics of Sustainable Technologies as well as Environmental and Climate Protection.

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Dr. Rainer Stetter, Managing Director of ITQ GmbH, explained that he had deliberately chosen Gran Canaria as the location for the Makeathon: "The island is predestined to be self-sufficient in terms of energy. The sun and the wind offer many opportunities to generate electricity from renewable sources and thus power the digital world. Our vision is to use the island as an example to show what life in the future could look like."

The idea is also already attracting interest from politicians. The president of the Cabildo de Gran Canaria, Antonio Morales, emphasized during his visit to the international educational event: "The goals of the event to advance sustainability and digitalization on Gran Canaria coincide with our own goals. As an island, we have all the conditions to become one hundred percent self-sufficient. Thanks to the international participants, it is possible to share our experience with the world and advance practical education."



Picture: 6th SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON 2023.

In total, this year's SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON was **supported by 25 sponsors**. Special thanks go to the **Platinum Sponsors** such as [B&R Industrial Automation](#), [Murrelektronik](#), [igus](#), [Beckhoff Automation](#), the gold sponsors [Cabildo de Gran Canaria](#), [Spegc](#), [Fundacion Sergio Alonso](#), [Vishay](#), [Lorenz](#), [MathWorks](#) and the silver sponsors [TRUMPF](#), [OPTIMA](#), [AGCO/Fendt](#), [Honda R&D Europe](#), [MVTec](#), [Gruppo ASA](#), [Packaging Valley](#).

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In addition to financial support, local and international Companies participated in the MAKEATHON and provided initial ideas for sustainable projects. These so-called Industry Challenges were developed by the participants in **24 interdisciplinary Teams** and turned into prototypes. Challenges on the topics of **Smart Production, Smart Climate, Smart Farming and Smart Mobility** were worked on.

The **Industry Challenges of the Platinum Sponsors** of the MAKEATHON were very popular among the participants:

[B&R Industrial Automation](#) supported its teams on the topic of garbage upcycling. The teams developed initial prototypes for processing PET bottles, e.g., into filament for 3D printers.

[The Beckhoff Automation](#) teams reworked concepts for waste disposal from the oceans using image processing systems and for better control of "floating waste collection."

[Iqus](#) brought along a challenge on the topic of seaweed and its ecological benefits. The teams developed prototypes consisting of lightweight robots with cobot function that recognize seaweed on the beach, collect it and separate it from impurities.

[Murrelektronik's](#) challenge was all about safer workplaces and workflows. The teams developed initial systems to make it easier for workers to carry loads in the warehouse or on the assembly line, for example.

In addition to these innovative ideas, the MAKEATHON offers a novel **Recruiting** platform for all participants to network and get to know **industry-leading** Companies. In this way, ITQ GmbH would like to counteract the shortage of skilled workers.

About ITQ GmbH

Founded in 1998, ITQ GmbH is an independent engineering and consulting company with a focus on automation, mechanical and plant engineering. The experienced team of experts specializes in interdisciplinary problem solving related to software and systems engineering. Its core competencies include software engineering (analysis, design, implementation, testing) and process improvement as well as project and crisis management as well as consulting and coaching.

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A special concern of ITQ is both requirements-oriented and forward-looking training as well as continuing education concepts, which already start with the younger generations. Therefore, the company promotes young academics in practical study projects as well as technical workshops for children, pupils, and students through their Gerda Stetter Foundation – Technik macht Spass!

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Characters (without spaces): 5.773

More Information:

[ITQ GmbH](#)

[Dr. Stetter ITQ S.L.U](#)

[SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON](#)

[Gerda Stetter Foundation – Technik macht Spaß!](#)

Photo and Video Material:

[SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON – Pictures](#)

[SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON – Short Impression Movie](#)

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