

Press Release
SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON 2025, 12.03.-15.03.2025

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Encouraging tech talent, driving innovation – how technology inspires every generation

At the SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON on Gran Canaria, almost 1,000 technology enthusiasts of all ages came together to passionately discover the latest technologies and shape the digitalisation of the future!

Garching, March 20th, 2025 – From **12th to 15th March 2025**, [ITQ GmbH](#) invited **986 technology enthusiasts** from **all over the world** to the **SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON** on Gran Canaria in cooperation with [Dr Stetter ITQ](#) from the Canary Islands. The MAKEATHON is ITQ GmbH's **international Innovation Festival** with the aim of getting young people excited about technology and promoting innovative ideas on the topics of Digitalisation and Sustainability (Smart & Green). While **546 Young Talents and Representatives of renowned Sponsors** worked on solutions for **Sustainable Logistics, Recycling Processes, Smart Mobility and Smart Farming**, among other things, **440 children and young people** from Spanish educational institutions were able to demonstrate their skills in **Technology Workshops**. The SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON strengthens the technical skills of all generations for a sustainable future and brings Young Talents together with companies. In this way, it helps to combat the existing shortage of skilled labour and **facilitate new training concepts**.

The event took place in the Infecar de Feria exhibition hall, which was brought to life with green T-shirts and creative ideas from the participants. Of the **546 adult participants**, **204 came from industry and research/teaching and 342 Young Talents from 73 international educational Institutions, Universities and Colleges**. As global challenges can only be tackled together, the SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON brought together participants from **36 nations** – including representatives from **Europe, Africa, Asia and South America**. They all spent four days working on **Industry Challenges** in the fields of **Smart Automation/Production, Smart Green Logistics/Mobility/Energy, Smart Farming, Smart Building, AI and Circular Economy**.

In interdisciplinary teams, they **developed innovative solutions** for plastic-free and sustainable packaging made from banana fibres and PET recycling in industrial applications for a resource-conserving future. There were also challenges with modular water measurement systems and solutions for autonomous driving in waste disposal logistics. The result of the Innovation Festival was impressive: together with the

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Sponsors, **28 Teams developed a total of 22 Prototypes**, which they presented during the closing event. The following challenges were worked on for the three **Platinum Sponsors**:

In the **MVtec Challenge “Automated Waste Detection”**, the teams developed a solution for automated waste detection and disposal. Among other things, a robot vehicle was equipped with a USB camera for object recognition and infrared sensors for obstacle detection. In addition, a scoop for picking up waste was designed using a CAD model and realised in several prototype stages up to the final design.



Full commitment: First prototypes were already recognisable on 2. Day (Source: ITQ GmbH)

The **Murrelektronik Team** developed an **automated process for recycling PET bottles**. The plastic was shredded. The resulting granulate was used to overmould electronic components. Robotics and mechatronics automated the process to enable an efficient circular economy. A digital product passport made it possible to trace the recycled materials.

The **igus Challenge** was all about an **automated “Smart Greenhouse”**. The team developed a system that uses a ReBeL Cobot and image processing programmes to recognise the ripeness of fruit. Controlled by software, the concept showed potential for sustainable vertical farming with a low carbon footprint. A 3D/AR demo brought the solution to life.

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To encourage enthusiasm for technology as early as possible, the MAKEATHON also offered an extensive **programme for children and young people**. More than **440 schoolchildren** were able to strengthen their knowledge and enthusiasm for technology during this week and take part in **23 Technology Workshops**, including robot programming and Minecraft Education. Solar boats, cleaning robots, hydroponic systems and demonstrators from the EU-funded research project "[EduDemoS](#)" for renewable energies from wind, solar and water were also built. The workshops were organised by the [Gerda Stetter Foundation 'Technology is fun!'](#), the Canary Islands foundation [Fundación Sergio Alonso](#) and German-speaking Universities.



The children were able to experience technology and programming while having fun. (Source: ITQ GmbH)

"It was fantastic to see how enthusiastic the young people were about technology. No matter what age, they were fully committed. I can only thank the participating sponsors, teachers and professors who once again brought great challenges and committed teams to the island," said Dr Rainer Stetter, CEO of ITQ GmbH and Initiator of the SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON.

In addition to ITQ GmbH, the realisation of the event was made possible by the financial, content and material **support of 24 national and international Sponsors**. Special thanks go to the **Platinum Sponsors**: [Government of Gran Canaria \(Cabildo de Gran Canaria\)](#), [MVTec](#), [Murrelektronik](#) and [igus](#). **Gold Sponsors**: [Gobierno de Canarias](#), [Fundación Sergio Alonso](#), [OPTIMA](#), [Vishay](#), [Krones](#), [Lorenz](#), [MEILLER-Kipper](#). **Silver Sponsors**: [SPEGC](#), [IES El Rincón](#), [MathWorks](#), [Fraunhofer-Institut für Arbeitswirtschaft und Organisation IAO](#) and [VDMA](#).

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Why Gran Canaria as the venue for the Festival?

With its diverse climate zones, Gran Canaria offers ideal conditions for a sustainable and self-sufficient energy supply from renewable sources. With the **SMART & GREEN Projects on the Island**, ITQ GmbH is pursuing the goal of advancing the digital transformation and using the island as a sustainable prototype to promote international networking. This is a decisive step towards **counteracting the global shortage of skilled labour**.

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.

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!

Characters (with spaces): 7.312

Characters (without spaces): 6.256

More Information:

[ITQ GmbH](#)

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[SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON](#)

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

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