

Press Release
SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON 2026, 24.-28.02.2026

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Future Technologies Between Museum and Makeathon

At the **SMART GREEN ISLAND INNOVATION FESTIVAL** organized by ITQ GmbH, around 750 young talents along with representatives from science, industry, and education come together to work on the digital solutions of tomorrow.

*Climate change, dwindling resources and an increasing shortage of skilled professionals pose major challenges for society and the economy alike. The **INNOVATION FESTIVAL** addresses these issues head-on with a holistic education and innovation concept designed to inspire people of all generations to engage with technology. While university students tackle real-world technology challenges in the **MAKEATHON**, children and young people gain early access to technical topics. At the same time, researchers discuss current scientific questions at the international **EUROCAST** conference.*

Garching, February 4th, 2026 – From **24 to 28 February, 2026** ITQ GmbH, together with the Spanish [Dr. Stetter ITQ S.L.U.](#), will host the **SMART GREEN ISLAND INNOVATION FESTIVAL** on **Gran Canaria**. The event will take place at the [Elder Museum of Science and Technology \(Museo Elder\)](#) in Las Palmas, located in the heart of the island's capital. Around **750 participants** in total will come together to explore future technologies, sustainability, science and education.

The museum provides a shared setting for **three closely interlinked innovation formats**: the **SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON**, hands-on **technology workshops** for local school pupils, and the international scientific conference [EUROCAST](#). As a venue, the museum symbolizes the connection between technological heritage and the modern world of innovation, creating an inspiring environment for exchange and collaboration.

At the heart of the **SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON 2026** is the guiding theme **“CirQmind – Circular Economy through Circular Society.”** Around **200 young talents from 25 countries and more than 30 universities**, together with **100 representatives from institutions and companies**, will work in interdisciplinary teams on practical technology challenges covering the entire value chain of the Circular Economy.

The fields of activity range from **waste identification and collection using mobile robots, sorting and automation of recycling processes**, through to the **production of new packaging and components**. Cutting-edge technologies from **Robotics, Smart Automation and Artificial Intelligence** will be used, provided and supported by participating sponsors.

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In this way, the MAKEATHON combines hands-on technology development with direct exchange between students, companies and institutions, while also serving as a **recruitment and talent-development platform** for technical professionals.

The implementation of the **SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON** is made possible through the financial, conceptual and material support of **23 national and international sponsors**.

Special thanks go to the following sponsors:

Platinum-Sponsor: [MVTec](#).

Gold-Sponsors are Government of the Canary Islands [Gobierno de Canarias](#), Government of Gran Canaria [Cabildo de Gran Canaria](#), [Fundación Sergio Alonso](#), [Museo Elder](#), [Beckhoff](#), [MEILLER-Kipper](#), [Lorenz](#).

Silver-Sponsors are: [igus](#), [MathWorks](#), [IES El Rincón](#), [Algorithmics](#), [Protect the Planet – Dorothea Sick-Thies](#), [Quanderland](#).

Additional long-standing supporters of the MAKEATHON and Silver Sponsors include the [Karl-Peter-Obermaier School Passau](#) and the [Wilhelmshaven Vocational Schools](#), whose highly motivated pupils support the design and supervision of the makerspaces, as well as the organization of the event and catering.

To spark enthusiasm for technology at an early age, the MAKEATHON also offers an extensive program for **children and young people from the Canary Islands**. **300 pupils** will have the opportunity during the week to expand their knowledge by taking part in **eight different Technology Workshops free of charge**. The workshops are delivered by **German universities**, the [Gerda Stetter Stiftung „Technik macht Spass!“](#) together with the EU-funded research project [EduDemoS](#), and the Canary-based [Fundación Sergio Alonso](#). The focus is on **Robotics, Programming and Electronics**, with a strong emphasis on **Sustainability**.

Running concurrently at the museum, **EUROCAST** will bring together around **150 participants from 20 universities**. Scientists and experts from various disciplines will discuss current issues related to technology, research and innovation. The close physical proximity to the MAKEATHON allows insights into ongoing developments and actively promotes exchange between academia, the museum environment and modern science.

“The new museum location creates a very special atmosphere: historic technology that tells a story, and innovative people shaping the future. This environment highlights how important it is to make technology tangible and to connect generations,” says Dr. Rainer Stetter, Managing Director of ITQ GmbH.

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Image: The CirQmind community continues to grow – international participants at the SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON develop innovative prototypes for an environmentally sustainable future. (Source: ITQ GmbH)

Why Gran Canaria?

With its diverse climate zones, Gran Canaria offers ideal conditions for a sustainable and self-sufficient energy supply based on renewable sources. Through its SMART & GREEN projects on the island, ITQ GmbH aims to drive digital transformation and promote international networking. This represents a crucial step in addressing the global shortage of skilled professionals.

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 have already started 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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More Information:

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[SMART GREEN ISLAND MAKEATHON](#)

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

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Press Contact:

ITQ GmbH

Caroline Schiller
Parkring 4
85748 Garching bei München
Germany
Phone: +49 89 321981-74
E-Mail: schiller@itq.de
www.itq.de