

- Press Release -

## **Best German Innovation Network Based in Baden-Württemberg**

**German federal government recognizes Baden-Württemberg Connected e.V. cluster initiative as competence network with best service**

*The Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) in Berlin awarded first place in its nationwide Competence Network 2008 competition to the Baden-Württemberg: Connected e.V. (bwcon) business initiative. MFG Baden-Württemberg has organized and managed the cluster initiative for over ten years within the framework of a service agreement.*

**Stuttgart, Germany, 13 February 2008** – First prize in the Competence Network 2008 competition for the best German innovation network went to Baden-Württemberg Connected e.V. (bwcon), a Stuttgart-based business initiative managed by MFG Baden-Württemberg. The €15,000 prize was awarded by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi) in Berlin to recognize the network's innovative service and added value for its members.

Prof. Jörg Sydow, Chairman of the Competence Network Initiative, praised bwcon's carefully balanced overall concept and tightly meshed services for startups and expanding technology enterprises during his presentation. According to Sydow, bwcon's offerings and ties to networks in other industries and technological sectors are unique in their present form.

"I'm very pleased to accept this prize in recognition of our years of successful networking. After celebrating our tenth anniversary last year, this

is a further boost to our motivation for the future," explained bwcon Chairman Alf Henryk Wulf.

MFG Baden-Württemberg Managing Director Klaus Haasis was also delighted by the prize: "This award also reflects the success of our quality strategy. Thanks to our ISO-certified processes, we have been able to continuously improve the organization of our community services for bwcon." In addition to bwcon, a range of other initiatives such as LiSoG (Linux Solutions Group e.V.), an open-source network with offices in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, also benefit from MFG's services and around 10,000 technology relationships.

Baden-Württemberg: Connected was established eleven years ago with support from MFG Baden-Württemberg. It is thus one of the oldest and most renowned cluster initiatives in Germany. As one of the most successful technology networks in Europe, bwcon currently links over 400 companies and research institutions with over 4,400 "networkers". In the creative industries, healthcare, information and communication technologies and connecting technologies fields, bwcon provides a solid foundation for cross-sector technology application and interdisciplinary partnerships between vendors, users and investors. The business initiative also provides an extensive range of consultation services for startups and expanding enterprises with its Coach & Connect program and hosts the annual CyberOne high-tech award. bwcon places great value on reflecting the needs of its members with its offerings and addressing current trends, topics and issues.

[www.bwcon.de](http://www.bwcon.de)

[www.mfg-innovation.de](http://www.mfg-innovation.de)

### **About Baden-Württemberg: Connected (bwcon)**

Baden-Württemberg: Connected e.V. (bwcon) is the leading business initiative to promote Baden-Württemberg as a location for innovation and

high-tech. As one of the most successful technology networks in Europe, it counts over 400 companies and research institutions among its members. Over 4,400 experts benefit from systematic networking via the bwcon platform.

In the creative industries, healthcare, information and communication technologies and connecting technologies fields, bwcon provides a unique foundation in Baden-Württemberg for cross-sector technology application and interdisciplinary partnerships between developers, users and investors. Furthermore, bwcon provides an extensive range of consultation services for startups and expanding enterprises with its Coach & Connect program.

### **About MFG Baden-Württemberg**

MFG is one of the leading European innovation agencies for IT and media with a focus on information technology, software, telecommunications and creative industries. Its goal is to establish a creative and technology network to strengthen southwestern Germany, promote cooperation in Europe and support global partnerships. The agency focuses on user industries as potential customers. With its ISO 9001-certified services and 10,000 technology relationships, it is an international pioneer of systematic regional development based on public-private partnerships.

## **Press contacts**

### **MFG Baden-Württemberg mbH**

State innovation agency  
for information technology and media

Silke Ruoff  
Communication and marketing contact  
Breitscheidstrasse 4  
D-70174 Stuttgart, Germany  
Tel.: +49-711-90715-316  
Fax: +49-711-90715-350  
E-mail: ruoff@mfg.de  
www.mfg-innovation.de

### **Baden-Württemberg: Connected e. V.**

Michael Wagner  
Project Manager Communication  
Breitscheidstrasse 4  
D-70174 Stuttgart, Germany  
Tel.: +49-711-90715-503, Fax: +49-711-90715-550  
E-mail: wagner@bwcon.de  
www.bwcon.de

This press release is also available at [www.mfg-innovation.de](http://www.mfg-innovation.de).