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Innovation and cooperation for a sustainable future

A German & Swedish partnership for innovation

Innovation and cooperation are key to sustainable economic development and long-term inclusive job creation.

The German & Swedish partnership for innovation is an important step for bilateral cooperation between our countries. It brings together governments, businesses and institutions, and paves the way for deepened future cooperation.

The Federal Government of Germany and the Swedish Government have agreed on the following actions as a basis for cooperation.

Mobility

A joint study on eHighways and the electrification of roads will be conducted.

- The study will include: the advantages and disadvantages of different technical solutions; possible business models, including financing and ownership issues; cost benefit analyses; preliminary mapping of interesting roads; and an exchange of views with industry representatives.
- Sweden and Germany agree to work together to enhance eHighway technology, identify means for cross-border operability between Sweden and Germany and campaign at European level for the wider spread of this technology.

The joint study will be undertaken by the Swedish Transport Administration and the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

Test beds

Joint work on test beds for the advancement of Industrie 4.0 and Smart Industry.

- Germany and Sweden will collaborate to map, coordinate and strengthen the ties between test facilities relevant for industrial development in Sweden and Germany. Mapping and coordinating available facilities, ranging from labs to real-life test beds, will improve access to testing facilities relevant for the digitalisation of industry. Closer linking testing environments can create better user value.
- RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, together with joint research centres and platforms such as the Powertrain Manufacturing for Heavy Vehicles Application Lab – a Collaboration between KTH, Fraunhofer and RISE, the Fraunhofer-Chalmers Research Centre for Industrial Mathematics and, on

the German side, the Fraunhofer institutes and the Labs Network Industrie 4.0 e.V. (LNI 4.0), will initiate collaborative activities.

SME digitalisation

Establish a partnership on exchange of experience about digitalisation and automation of SMEs.

- The countries will establish a partnership and launch a knowledge exchange, committing to explore ways of boosting the digitalisation processes of SMEs within industrial and services sectors, for example by matching companies that have participated in national programmes. The partnership will bring together existing policy measures and be combined with a new bilateral dimension. Through the Swedish Government's Smart Industry strategy and the German Industrie 4.0 and Mittelstand-Digital, both countries have launched policies in this spirit.

The partnership will be coordinated by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.

eHealth

A bilateral knowledge exchange will be initiated.

- The countries agree to initiate a knowledge exchange on eHealth, including technical infrastructure for electronic patient records and electronic prescriptions, as well as telemedicine solutions such as 'care at a distance' or remote expert consultation, monitoring and medical education. The exchange will commence with mutual cooperation and exchange to study available systems and services.

The exchange will be coordinated by the Swedish Government's Life Science Coordinator in collaboration with relevant governmental agencies and German government bodies under coordination of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, which will be supported by the German Federal Ministry of Health. The bilateral exchange should be aligned with existing German and Swedish activities at EU level and within the European eHealth Network.

Follow-up

In order to enhance possibilities for future cooperation, the joint work will be followed up at operational level by the respective responsible parties and at strategic level by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation and Vinnova, which will be focal points to support the sharing of experiences on how to enhance innovation through addressing societal challenges, thereby linking to Industrie 4.0 in Germany and both Smart Industry and the National Innovation Council in Sweden.