



Handling resources more economically – Working group on the efficient and sustainable use of energy

Saving energy is a concern for all areas of economic activity including information technology, which plays an increasing role in business environments.

The power consumption alone of computers, printers and other electronic devices leads to significant costs. Another important factor is the cost of the hardware used. However, information technology can also be used to conserve resources. In addition, it can help to reveal possible areas for improvement, which in turn optimises the consumption of energy and materials.

The members of the IT cluster of Central Germany offer a wide range of IT skills in this specific area, which can benefit a number of sectors of industry. IT solutions, IT services and IT components are in the foreground when it comes to ensuring that the economic activity of industrial, commercial and domestic energy consumers is sustainable.

In November 2013, a working group on the 'efficient and sustainable use of energy' was set up to pool this expertise; this is led by three companies active in the field. It pursues the goal

of raising awareness about the sustainable use of resources in and with IT. At the same time, the working group is to ensure through its activities that the options for increasing energy efficiency are explained more clearly, with companies given an opportunity to develop their own ideas about how to implement these in their own unique circumstances.



Enhancing security – Working group on IT security

Global networking and digitalisation entail not only advantages but also risks.

Data theft and cyber espionage are just two typical examples. However, IT security is a much more complex issue than that, and is multi-layered. Careful handling of data and IT infrastructure begins with an awareness of the risks within the company - and culminates in sophisticated, cutting-edge protection technologies.

In order to address the different aspects of this topic, the working group on 'IT security' of the IT cluster of Central

Germany was founded in June 2014. To date, it has ten member companies. All of these businesses are characterised by their long-standing expertise in the field of IT security.

An important objective of the working group is to raise awareness of IT security and the protection of one's own data, because there is still widespread ignorance about the full implications and consequences of this. At the same time, the companies in the working group are devoted to demonstrating the extensive expertise which exists in Central Germany in the field of IT security. This can serve as a basis for

joint projects in the region involving businesses from more than one industry. The working group is also focusing its activities on the development of concrete solutions - for instance, how to improve the rudiments of IT security and how to support companies with the introduction of IT solutions.