



News release

Making programming child's play: Deutsche Telekom Stiftung supports nationwide distribution of the Calliope Mini

Bonn, November 16, 2016: Deutsche Telekom Stiftung plans to support the nationwide distribution of the Calliope Mini, a minicomputer designed to help elementary school students take their first steps in the world of programming. The device, unveiled at this year's National IT Summit in Saarbrücken, Germany, will first be used at selected schools in Bremen and Saarland before being rolled out nationwide in 2017. To support the rollout, Deutsche Telekom Stiftung will be developing and testing teaching materials and lesson plans that will ensure the Calliope Mini's effectiveness as a classroom tool. The foundation is investing EUR 250,000 in the project.

"Young people have to navigate the digital world successfully, and so need to start learning useful digital skills at elementary school. The Calliope Mini can get students interested in programming, but will only catch on in elementary schools if it really helps teachers prepare and teach their regular lessons. That's why we are working with partners to develop lesson plans and teaching materials that can be used to train today's and tomorrow's teachers," said Professor Wolfgang Schuster, Chairman of the Executive Board, Deutsche Telekom Stiftung.

The initiative is part of Deutsche Telekom Stiftung's "Digital Learning in Elementary School" project. In it, the foundation supports six universities in developing new strategies for the productive use of digital technologies in elementary school classes and testing the strategies in the field at elementary schools. Methods and materials that pass this trial phase are incorporated into teacher training programs. The foundation's vision is for all elementary schools to creatively use digital technology and follow in the Calliope Mini's successful footsteps.

Press contact:

Deutsche Telekom Stiftung
Konrad Hünerfeld
Phone: +49 228 181-92031
Email: konrad.huenerfeld@telekom-stiftung.de
Web: www.telekom-stiftung.de