



Press Release EventHorizon 2017

EventHorizon 2017 Summit: Blockchain is the missing link in the energy system and will reduce energy costs

Vienna, 16 February 2017 – More than 500 people from 36 countries came together to think about and collaborate on how blockchain will enable a revolution in the energy sector at the historical venue, Hofburg Palace in Vienna.

Welcome remarks were given by Michael Hübner from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology, Ulrike Huemer from the City of Vienna and Ewald Hesse, initiator of the EventHorizon summit. The first keynote speaker was Dr. Christoph Frei, Secretary General at the World Energy Council, who described blockchain as the missing link in the energy system and electricity as the new oil. Ethereum inventor Vitalik Buterin outlined in a keynote his view on the meaning of decentralization and his classification on it.

Dr. Gavin Wood, Heiko Hees, Christoph Jentzsch and Ewald Hesse clarified in a fireside discussion many of the confusing aspects of blockchain technology, which is a trusted way to track the ownership of assets without the need for a central authority. An audience poll showed that 59 percent expect the new technology to reduce energy costs.

However, since the energy market is subject to state regulations, the regulatory panel discussed the future of regulation avoiding over-regulation. Member of the European Parliament, Eva Kaili, mentioned that the first part of the legislation is supposed to be passed around the end of the year.

Uses cases, investments and security

The summit showed that there are a growing number of use cases in development across the energy sector including: peer-to-peer energy trading, the sharing of connected devices, the use of digital currencies to record energy production, enable local markets and to facilitate access to energy. To be the vehicle for the energy sector and to explore the impact of blockchain collectively, Dr. Hervé Touati, managing director of the Rocky Mountain Institute, announced the launch of the non-profit Energy Web Foundation.

A panel of investors gave unique insights how to attract funding: have a robust technology roadmap, be transparent about strengths and be clear on your strategy and timeframes for growth. But there was also the chance to discuss the important topic of security. Our connected devices are potentially unsecure and exist in hostile environments. In a sense security must be shifted from a feature to a requirement.



Top of the Horizon 2017 Start-up Award

On the second day focusing on start-ups, investments and security the audience was asked to vote their favourite start-up pitch out of 15 candidates. The winner of the Top of the Horizon 2017 was OneUp. Founder Mark Dijkman received the award under applause of the audience. His company acts as a bridge between large enterprises and small start-ups through a structured approach.

It was an exciting and successful summit on blockchain as a key enabler for the energy future and a benchmark for the energy industry.

Picture download and further information is available on www.eventhorizon2017.com/press

Contact Information

Nicolai Tschol
Press Coordinator
+43 699 191 30 370
media@eventhorizon2017.com

EventHorizon 2017 is the first global summit on blockchain technology in the energy sector convening experts, government officials, decision makers, start-ups and established market players to discuss and develop new energy solutions. It was initiated by the Start-up Grid Singularity. Platinum Partner of the event is EY. The summit is supported by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, the Convention Bureau Vienna, Digital City Wien, EFRE, the Energy Planning Division of the City of Vienna and the Vienna Business Agency. Co-operation and media partners are the Austrian Institute of Technology, bitkom, Bloomberg New Energy Finance, Cleantech Group, der Brutkasten, CISMO, the German Energy Agency, die Presse, ecosummit. Energie Steiermark, Engerati, ESMIG, Friends of the Supergrid, Fronius, Grand Hotel Vienna, GTM, Microsoft, Montel, Nordic Innovation Accelerator, oesterreichs energie, Parity, PV Magazine Group, PwC, Rocky Mountain Institute, Smart Energy Demand Coalition, Smart Grids Austria, Smart Grid Spain, the Stiftung Neue Verantwortung, the Blue Minds Company, Vattenfall, the Association of the Austrian Software Industry and the World Energy Council.