



THE MINISTER-PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Greeting

For the third time in a row, the most important German-French conference on artificial intelligence, the AIXIA: Artificial Intelligence meets Intelligence Artificielle, takes place in November.

I warmly welcome you to this important and highly appreciated conference on applied AI.

The event is initiated and organized by Digital Hub Karlsruhe for applied Artificial Intelligence; a project funded by the German government and state of Baden-Württemberg. The conference represents a perfect example for international cooperation and cross-border innovation. Accordingly, I would also like to warmly welcome the partners of the French site, Hub France IA, which I was able to visit in 2019 during my trip to Paris.

AIXIA conference is the most remarkable format of the German-French cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence. This is mainly a result of the good cooperation between the state of Baden-Württemberg and France in this field, with a special mention to the Région Grand Est, which is strongly connected to Baden-Württemberg and a very active partner of the conference.

Baden-Württemberg is the perfect location for top international AI research at CyberValley and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). Karlsruhe as home to over 10,000 IT students, more than 4,400 digital companies, over 40 AI startups, and Europe's leading IT network CyberForum is ideal to further advance the topic of artificial intelligence. As a digital location, Baden-Württemberg offers a wide range of existing structures, such as the Digital Hub Karlsruhe, a broad network of AI expertise, as



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well as an ideal environment to bring AI into application. It is also particularly important for us to support small and medium-sized enterprises in Baden-Württemberg in the discussion, implementation and application of new AI opportunities.

The international competence and excellence approach are what differentiates us and therefore also the AIxIA conference from other platforms. It is essential to be a pioneer and to start, promote and improve where the most skilled people are and where top international companies invest so that the conditions can be among the best on an international level.

To achieve these goals, international cooperation and continuous exchange are essential. Baden-Württemberg and Grand Est are predetermined to serve as a testing ground and nucleus of the German-French AI cooperation. AIxIA as a platform therefore offers the perfect framework for this exchange. I wish all participants interesting new insights and a lively exchange of knowledge. I would like to thank the Digital Hub Karlsruhe for Applied Artificial Intelligence, France Hub IA, as well as numerous network partners for the realization of this valuable project.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Winfried Kretschmann".

Winfried Kretschmann

Minister-President of the State of Baden-Württemberg.