

PRESS RELEASE

August 2023

## Prizes awarded at it-sa Expo&Congress: Awards for new talents, IT security professionals and start-ups

- Awards for research projects and ethical hacking
- Prizes for end-to-end resilience projects
- Best cybersecurity start-up and innovative solutions sought

Promoting new talent will play a key part in Europe's largest IT security trade fair, it-sa Expo&Congress, which is taking place in Nuremberg from 10 to 12 October this year. As part of the supporting programme, prizes will be awarded to recognize the performance of budding and young professionals. Special achievements in the area of (cyber) resilience will also be recognized. The ATHENE Startup Award UP23@it-sa will highlight the power of innovation of the IT security sector: This coveted prize is awarded to the best cybersecurity start-up in the German-speaking region.

Germany currently has a shortage of 137,000 IT security professionals, and the shortfall worldwide is as high as 3.4 million, according to figures calculated recently by industry association Bitkom and (ISC)<sup>2</sup>, the international organization for information security leaders. At the same time, surveys among IT security officers show just how great the pressure is in this profession. Several awards presented at the it-sa Expo&Congress recognize outstanding performance by budding and experienced IT security professionals, and thus also the important contribution they make to security in the digital age. Together with ATHENE, the German National Research Centre for Cybersecurity, and Bavaria's IT Security Cluster, it-sa also honours young, innovative IT security providers with the ATHENE Startup Award UP23@it-sa.

**10–12 October 2023**On-site in  
Nuremberg, Germany**Online 365 days a year**

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**CAST IT Security Promotion Award for student research**

Excellent academic theses will be recognized with the 2023 CAST IT Security Promotion Award on the first day of the it-sa trade fair. The finale will be held the day before the actual trade fair as part of Congress@it-sa, when three finalists in each level will present their Master's theses, dissertations or Bachelor's theses and student research projects to both a jury of experts and industry professionals. The CAST Promotion Award comes with a cash component of EUR 3,600.

**Hacking challenge: "Germany's Best Hacker" at it-sa**

Germany's Best Hacker 2023 will be presented as part of the supporting programme at the it-sa Expo&Congress. The initiative, led by Marco di Filippo, has the aim of "encouraging the next generation to deal with IT and IT security", and to promote the positive perception of ethical hackers. A series of online challenges followed by a finale in Dortmund will reveal the winner, who will appear on the stage in Nuremberg.

**IBCRM Resilience Award: End-to-end resilience sought in organizations**

In presenting the Resilience Award at it-sa, the institute for Business Continuity & Resilience Management will acknowledge projects that display end-to-end resilience management. The focus is on the close meshing between information security, IT security, data protection, business continuity management and other disciplines such as crisis management. This is the first time the Resilience Award will be presented. "We are pleased to be able to offer the right venue, in the form of the it-sa Expo&Congress, for the first presentation of the Resilience Award," says Frank Venjakob, Executive Director it-sa.

**Best cybersecurity start-up: ATHENE Startup Award UP23@it-sa**

The award for the best start-up from Germany, Austria and Switzerland in the field of data protection and IT security will be presented at it-sa for the sixth time. In addition to potential for innovation, an eight-member jury of experts will assess aspects such as the candidates' business model, financial success, marketing, sales and corporate vision.

The proud winner of the coveted trophy will be determined on 11 October, when the five start-ups nominated by the jury will compete against each other in a pitching session. The three highest-ranked will receive awards including cash prizes of EUR 5,000, EUR 2,500 and EUR 1,250 respectively.

### **IT Security Awards for innovative products**

The most innovative products in the categories of Management Security, Internet Security, Identity and Access Management, and Cloud Security will be recognized with the IT Security Awards. Once again this year, the award presentations will take place as part of the forum programme at the trade fair.

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