

Press release

bwcon and the Data X-Lab of UC Berkeley to host joint AI Bootcamp

Stuttgart/Berkeley, 19 March 2021 - In collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley's Data X-Lab, bwcon is organising a joint AI Bootcamp from 26 April to 30 April 2021. Teams looking for support to kick off their AI business model will benefit from advice from international experts. To specifically address participants, the Bootcamp will be available for teams as well as individuals.

Innovators must have the necessary training and skills to be able to use data properly to create solutions that lead to successful business outcomes. The Berkeley Data X-Lab provides fundamental training with data analysis for innovation in the context of recent technological developments and education on how to expand current business models to include data-based services.

The bwcon Data Lab, which also includes the KI-Lab mittlerer Neckar and which previously operated regionally in Baden-Württemberg, networked internationally last year and has since been able to expand its offering to include various partnership programmes with UC Berkeley. Baden-Württemberg companies now have the opportunity to actively network with students at UC Berkeley and collaborate on projects there. In addition, UC Berkeley offers various programmes for further education.

The collaborative event "AI Bootcamp" from 26 April to 30 April 2021 is starting precisely here. In order to be able to specifically address the needs of interested parties, the further education programme will be offered in two tracks. The first track, "AI Bootcamp for teams," is for start-ups, universities, and companies that are already running their own AI project and would like to develop it further. They will receive support for the kick-off of their AI business model and can apply for the Bootcamp with their AI business idea. In mentoring sessions, 20 selected teams will receive feedback and support for their AI projects and have the opportunity to present their business idea in front of a top-class panel of judges.

The second track, "AI Bootcamp for Individuals," is aimed at individuals, teams, and companies who are in the idea phase for their own AI projects or who want to approach the topic of business development with AI in terms of content. It offers participants the opportunity to attend lectures by top-class speakers and to further educate themselves in the field of AI – from AI business models to the analysis and potential of data to AI technologies and platforms. Bootcamp participants will also have the opportunity to gain insights into the latest AI insights and research from entrepreneurs, executives, VCs, as well as UC Berkeley faculty.

Prof. Ikhtlaq Sidhu, Chief Scientist and Faculty Director of the Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology (SCET) in the College of Engineering at UC Berkeley developed the Data-X course. The Data-X Lab of UC Berkeley's Sutardja Center helps

entrepreneurs and innovators develop technologies for new applications and thus monetising data.

"Today, the world is literally reinventing itself with data and AI. However, neither leading companies nor the world's best students have all the knowledge or access to all the networks they need to participate in this newly evolving world. Data-X is a UC Berkeley course and a global project to address this problem," explains Professor Ikhlāq Sidhu.

Professor Sidhu's center aims to create technological innovations in cooperation with national and international partners and at the same time to promote entrepreneurial education in the technology sector. The Data-X Lab is intended to be an open and collaborative space where future entrepreneurs can develop solutions for their innovative business ideas. That is why Data-X is not a self-contained system that works only in Berkeley. Rather, it relies on international partners such as bwcon, which supports researchers and companies in Baden-Württemberg in technological processes and developments and promotes young entrepreneurs.

The partnership with UC Berkeley's Data X-Lab fits in with the bwcon Data Lab and the KI-Lab Mittlerer Neckar, both of which serve as a contact point for companies that want to deepen their knowledge in the field of AI application. It offers a wide range from initial awareness-raising offers - including information events and workshops of the KI-Lab Mittlerer Neckar - to further training and joint projects.

If you have any questions about the AI Bootcamp for Teams and Individuals events, please contact Nicole Hausladen, Business Development Advisor, at hausladen@bwcon.de or by phone at +49 (0) 176 44470658.

You can find more information about the events in the bwcon event overview at www.events.bwcon.de. There you can also register for the AI Bootcamp free of charge.

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Event partner



About Professor Ikhtlaq Sidhu

Faculty Director and Chief Scientist at the University of California, Berkeley Sutardja Center for Entrepreneurship & Technology. Professor Ikhtlaq Sidhu founded the Sutardja Center's Data-X Lab back in 2015. Ikhtlaq Sidhu's goal was to develop a course in data science that would give the tools in the form of basic skills and knowledge of approaches that would enable them to implement innovative data science projects. His idea was to teach the most important programming skills for the industry and the most commonly used algorithms and to combine these two building blocks with an experimental data science project so that the participants can directly apply the knowledge they have learned in practice and use it in a real project. This resulted in the Data-X course.

About bwcon: Baden-Württemberg: Connected e.V. (bwcon) is the leading business initiative for the promotion of high-tech industries in Baden-Württemberg with offices in Stuttgart, Freiburg, Horb and Villingen-Schwenningen. bwcon was founded in 1997 and has around 700 members. The main objective of bwcon is to promote key technologies in order to strengthen the economic development of the region. The focus is on information and communication technologies (ICT) as drivers of innovation in the areas of mobility, production, health, and energy. bwcon creates a unique platform for cross-sector cooperation between developers, users, and investors.