



Accelerate digitization

Digital solutions make life and work easier in COVID-19 times

Over a short period of time, the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way in which many people live and work. The restrictions imposed to contain the virus are presenting tough challenges for politicians, the economy and society. Within days, changes had to be made to established procedures and routine processes. Innovations, new approaches and ad-hoc digital solutions are proving critical elements of crisis management, as well as contributing to a significant acceleration in digitization in Germany. The use of digital technologies and solutions is just as crucial for commerce, logistics, industrial value creation and social interaction as it is for the energy and mobility transition.

Lack of digitization weakens the economy and society

The lack of digitization in some areas has been causing huge problems. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed digital failings, particularly in the education sector. Only a few schools in Germany are adequately prepared for teaching arrangements which require a basic understanding of digital working. In many places, digital teaching plans have to be newly designed within a legal framework which is not entirely clear, and digital methodological competence must first be acquired. In addition, the requisite IT infrastructure is largely inadequate. The German coalition committee's 500 million euro emergency scheme to provide equipment to pupils and schools is a vital first step towards creating a digital learning landscape offering equal educational opportunities for all. Like the education sector, public administration has suffered from a failure to invest in digital solutions. The procurement and application of new tech-

nologies is proceeding rather slowly. Many offices and authorities are still a long way from being able to provide comprehensive digital administration services.

Promoting digitization – Act now to prosper post-crisis!

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that digitization opportunities in Germany and Europe, in comparison with other regions, have until now been insufficiently exploited. Infineon is therefore calling for much greater **promotion of the digital transformation**, which would involve adopting the following measures:

- › Extending network coverage in rural areas and rapidly rolling out 5G, the latest mobile telecommunications standard.
- › Creating the legal framework to facilitate digital innovations "made in Europe" and to strengthen the EU's technological sovereignty. This includes antitrust law, data protection and data rights, and product liability, as well as other aspects of the law.
- › Putting the necessary IT infrastructure in place and rapidly implementing digitization in schools, universities and public bodies.
- › Improving the dissemination of IT basics to schools and universities and introducing comprehensive and creative digital educational formats, such as hackathons and makeathons.

The impact of implementing these measures will extend well beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening the German economy and society and making them less susceptible to crises. There is a greater desire for change now than we have seen for a long time. We should therefore seize the opportunity to act!