

Dear Colleague Exhibitors,

The federation of the 4 Technical Universities in The Netherlands (4TU) are honoured to invite you to our program on **Digital Independence** on Tuesday 24th April van 13.30 till 14.00 hours in the Holland High Tech Pavilion in Hall 2 (C12 Research & Development) at the Hannover Messe .

The cry for independence is heard all over Europe. Political movements such as Front National and Lega Nord strive for independence for already more than a decade. More recently we witness how Brexiteers and Catalans voted for independence. In many cases these independence movements seem to build upon past emotions and previous wars. What is amazing, and in fact worrying, is that the past seems to be more important than the future; Brexiteers, Catalans and all these others lack a clear vision and convincing roadmap regarding the future.

The future, however, will be a digital society. Like the industrial revolution, the cyber revolution will change our society beyond our imagination. Already now our society depends completely on the Internet and the services on top of it. No banking without Internet, no airport or harbour without Internet, empty supermarkets without Internet, mass chaos without Internet. But cyber space is also a place to fear. The NSA infiltrated into Iranian nuclear facilities. The US elections were influenced via social media and fake news. Belgacom was hacked by the British and the German parliament was hacked by Russians.

But what does independence mean once hostile nation states can so easily influence elections, take over telecom networks, steal sensitive information, and bring down our power stations? Is Europe still independent now that Chinese equipment and US service providers dominate European cyber space? Do we trust the secret services from China, Russia, the US or even the UK? Who believes they don't use backdoors and zero-day exploits to spy and manipulate our digital society?

It is time that we start thinking about our digital independence or, in German: Digitale Souveränität.

Program

13.00 – 13.10	Welcome and Introduction in Digital Independence by Prof. Aiko Pras, Professor Network Operations and Management with a focus on Internet Security at University of Twente
13.10 – 13.25	Panel Discussion on Digital Independence lead by Prof. Aiko Pras Members of the panel are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mevr. Ineke Dezentjé Director FME-CWM • Marc Hendrikse, CEO NTS Group and Topsector High Tech Systems and Materials • Rene Penning de Vries, President BOM and Topsector ICT Panel and audience will discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for a Trusted and Resilient European Internet - How such network can be created and maintained - What kind of technologies could be used - What are the challenges and potential pitfalls
13.25 – 13.30	Wrap-up and closure by Prof. Aiko Pras

Please join us in this interesting half hour program and discussion on one of the most important topics of this century!
If you would like to participate, please send an e-mail indicating your interest in the program to inge@ab-initio.nl

Feel free to pass this invitation forward to others within your network that might be interested. We are looking forward meeting you on Tuesday 24th of April at 13.30 hour at the Holland High Tech Pavilion (C12) in Hall 2.

Kind regards
4TU Federation
Professor Aiko Pras (UTwente) and Inge Rehorst (Projectleader 4TU)