

## NEWSLETTER - *Extra*

### Welcome to CeBIT 2007!

KIBNET welcomes you to the 2007 CeBIT in Hanover, the leading fair for IT. We would like to welcome you to our stand at the fair where we inform all interested parties about AITTS –Germany’s Advanced IT Training System and its potential contribution to the success of all kinds of enterprises in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector and to its employees as well. We would be pleased to respond to all of your questions regarding vocational and further education training in the IT sector of Germany.

KIBNET is an active and acknowledged promoter of AITTS in an international context and especially in the European Union. Therefore, we want to present you in this newsletter our activities during the EUROPEAN E-SKILLS 2006 CONFERENCE in Thessaloniki in last October.

More information about our ongoing European activities can be found on our web portal. The English language section is located under <http://www.kibnet.org/english/>

Your KIBNET CeBIT-Team

### KIBNET – Mission & Team

(rh) BITKOM, an industry organization in the German ICT sector, and IG Metall, a leading trade union, team up to form KIBNET to jointly promote networks and initiatives who deal with vocational IT-training and further IT-education.

Both organizations are committed to develop and promote state-of-the-art qualifications systems to make lifelong-learning learning a reality in industry. KIBNET is a collaborative project funded by the German ministry of education and research (BMBF).

AITTS in short: Germany’s social partners and other interested parties have set up a system of



continuing education which takes place on the job and is tightly coupled to up-to-date work-processes. Today AITTS is regarded as one of Europe’s leading IT training systems with a cohesive system of IT specialists and operative and strategic professionals. Specialists require a certification according to EN ISO 17024 standards.

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### KIBNET at Thessaloniki (Greece)

(rh) At the beginning of October 2006 KIBNET represented Germany’s continuing vocational education and training system in the European context at the EUROPEAN e-SKILLS CONFERENCE 2006 –Towards a Long Term e-Skills Strategy.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 2006 Cedefop, the central European authority for vocational educational training (VET), held the EUROPEAN e-SKILLS CONFERENCE 2006 – Towards a Long Term e-Skills Strategy in Thessaloniki (*Salonika*). The conference was a central event regarding long-term development of e-skills in Europe, constituting an important intermediate step on the way to a European e-competence framework. In this respect e-skills mean the qualification of all EU citizens in handling IT tasks of any kind as well as the qualifications of IT professionals.



Günter Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Commission, said in his opening address to the assembly:

“E-skills make a key contribution to growth, jobs and social cohesion, which are high on the agenda of The European Commission. We may face severe –skills mismatches in the coming years. This problem calls for a strong stakeholder co-operation.”

An important objective of this event was the adoption of a recommendation to the EU commission for a long-term strategy in Europe



securing e-skills for professionals and the European population in general in the future. The vital importance of this subject for the EU as a whole is emphasized by the fact that the industrial department (DG Enterprise and Industry) of Günter Verheugen is responsible for this task.

**AITTS** – Advanced IT Training System is today a well-known constant in Europe and regarded as one of the leading qualifications systems. KIBNET was present in Thessaloniki with an exhibition stand and a team of consultants in order to wave the flag in the European environment and to consolidate its position.

**AITTS**

About 150 acknowledged experts from the EU, from national government authorities, higher-education institutions, big IT companies and other stakeholders, including unions, were registered as attendees. KIBNET informed participants with print material and conversations about continuing vocational IT education and training in Germany. Questions about this subject were immediately answered in appropriate detail in a large number of one-on-one discussions. We encountered great interest and a number of new promising contacts were made.



Smalltalk at the KIBNET-Stand

### A New Perspective: Cisco meets APO

In several speeches a new pitch in the discussions on the respective advantages of certification by manufacturers vs. state-backed certification (neutral schemes) became evident. In this context a renunciation of the recent controversial evaluation of these two approaches could be noted. Companies as “users” of certified staff increasingly wish for bridge-building between these two alternatives.

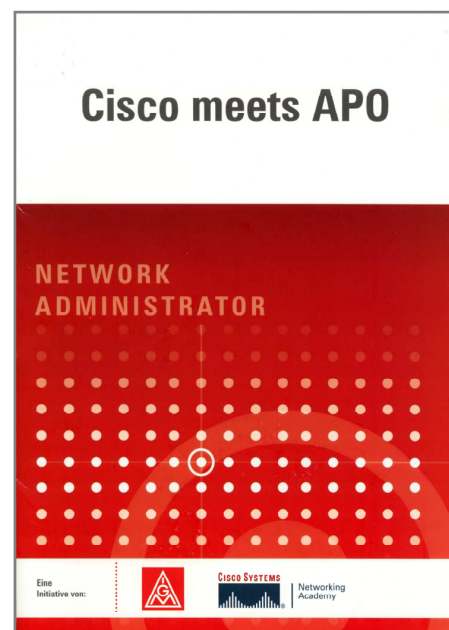
In the work shop “e-Skills Certification and Training” Markus Schwertel for Cisco and Dr. Michael Ehrke of IG Metall in the conference section “Multistakeholder Partnerships” presented the innovative project “Cisco meets APO”. (APO is the German synonym for work-process orientation of AITTS.) Markus Schwertel believes that a modern society needs both – the reliability and trustworthiness of a state system and the flexibility and market orientation of the industrial certificates.

The up-to-dateness of the contents offered and the method of the Cisco certification are suitable as professional support of the integral requirements for mastering the operating processes of a network administrator of APO. From now on both certificates may be acquired in the course of this qualification performing just one suitable project thus offering an obvious added value for participants and their employers on the labour market. Hence the participants of a “combi-certification” enjoy the strengths of both certificates.

Dr. Michael Ehrke welcomed as one of several examples the direct partnership of industry and a union as a groundbreaking model for the social dialogue as it is also essential in the European IT sector in order to achieve a balanced representation of interest of all participants.

More information (in German) about this project under

<http://kibnet.org/content.it-weiterbildung.7/index.html>



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