

Press release

Project of the month: Smart flatshare wins award as good example of energy transition

Berlin, 29 January 2019. The “smart” students’ flatshare, which was founded as part of the B-CoLab initiative, has won a “project of the month” award from the initiative “Berlin is saving energy”.

The smart flatshare was developed by Professor Dr Dr Thomas Schildhauer, founder and director of the Institute of Electronic Business (IEB), and Professor Dr Daniel Michelis from the Anhalt University of Applied Sciences. It was possible to realise the flatshare project with the support of the residential property company Deutsche Wohnen, which made a furnished flat available in a turn-of-the-century property in Kreuzberg.

Since October 2017, students have been able to live in this networked flatshare during their internships. They have researched the way in which smart technologies work in this environment and have reported on their findings in their flatshare blog diesmartwg.com.

For example, the students experiment in their flatshare with how an intelligent security system or the operation of household appliances using a virtual assistant can change day-to-day routines in the home. The smart flatshare is managed by Stefan Stumpp (IEB).

The “Project of the month” award relates to the important research question of how the use of networked technologies can reduce energy consumption in a flat of the future. So, smart thermostats regulate the heating in the flat if the window is opened to air the room, or intelligent lighting controls react if a room is not in use. For further information about the award, please visit: <https://www.berlin-spart-energie.de/aktuelles/aktueller-newsletter/2018/newsletter-122018.html>.

“Berlin is saving energy” is a campaign run by Berlin’s “ImpulsE” programme with the support of the Senate Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection. So-called “examples of best practice” are regularly given awards as drivers of the energy transition.

The B-CoLab project, which was initiated by the Institute of Electronic Business, concerns itself with the co-working, co-researching and co-living of students, academics and companies. In so doing, the IEB manages to build bridges between research and industry at an early stage in its training of young talent.

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Deutsche Wohnen

Deutsche Wohnen is one of the leading publicly listed property companies in Germany and Europe with a business focus on managing and developing its portfolio, which consists mainly of residential properties. As at 30 September 2018, the portfolio comprised 165,700 units in total, of which 163,100 were residential and 2,600 commercial. Deutsche Wohnen owns flats in four Berlin Modernist estates, which were declared UNESCO world heritage sites in July 2008: the White City Estate, the Horseshoe Estate in Britz, the Carl Legien residential estate and the Ring Estate in Siemensstadt.

Institute of Electronic Business (registered association)

The Institute of Electronic Business (IEB) is the largest institute affiliated to the Berlin University of the Arts. It has collaborated closely with the University of St. Gallen since 1999 and manages the transfer of the latest know-how from the field of application-oriented research to business and industry. In its work, the institute understands its role to be that of an independent expert from the field of research that identifies market-related trends in the area of digital communication. It also identifies challenges for companies, which it then supports with innovative solutions to enable them to make the right decisions to ensure their success in times of rapid developments in the communication media. As a not-for-profit association, the IEB helps its members and clients to remain competitive.