

Blockchain in the Spotlight

Exclusive Interviews on Shared Use at Mobility.Pioneers

Vienna, January 17th, 2018 - Blockchain and related technologies will play a major role in the future mobility landscape and feature heavily in our Shared Use topic at Mobility.Pioneers in Munich on February 8th. We chat with speaker Dominik Schiener, Chairman of IOTA, which enables cars to automatically pay for services. And we find out what blockchain challenge the ÖBB (Austrian Federal Railways) will issue at the concurrent Mobility Hackathon.

While we'll examine numerous use cases in Munich, two of the clearest examples are shared mobility services and secure data management for integrated transport services. Dominik Schiener, Co-Founder and Chairman of IOTA, will speak on stage, while the ÖBB will be looking for innovative solutions on the latter application as a partner for the Mobility Hackathon, which our consultancy arm Pioneers Discover will be running at the same venue from February 6th-8th.

During his Car eWallet demonstration, Schiener will illustrate the potential of IOTA, a 'blockless distributed ledger' that enables fee-free, scalable B2B payments, in allowing a car to automatically pay for services like charging and parking. He is already working with major corporates in the mobility industry and says he'll be looking to meet more at Mobility.Pioneers.

"The overall problem we're solving is how machines can pay each other," Schiener said. "Our hope is that in the future machines start trading with each other. Trading resources, trading services and thus making our lives more seamless and efficient by replacing the human as the centre of these processes.

"To achieve this machine economy, you need to give a machine a wallet. Then it can start paying for resources and services, but also start earning money. IOTA is the protocol that enables these wallets and the transactions to be settled between machines. That's our foundational layer."

The hackathon, which is open to developers as well as startups, will see contestants build prototypes answering transport challenges or problems pre-defined by each of our partners, which include both ÖBB and Deutsche Bahn (German Railways).

ÖBB has already issued its challenge, namely *Blockchain for Passenger Name Record* - using blockchain for seamless and secure personal data management in an integrated transport booking system featuring multiple service providers.

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“The winner of the hackathon will be the one with the most thought-through or most holistic concept to build on our existing idea, or the broadest network of solutions,” says Peter Zehetbauer, Innovation Manager at ÖBB. “There will be one winner, but in the long run maybe we can bring people who work on the same ideas together and help make their vision reality.

“The benefit for us will be that we could play an important role within that mobility ecosystem. A long term future for companies like ours is not specifically bound to the railways. But mobility as a public good will always be important. There is a future in terms of taking care of people’s mobility needs.

“Our vision of future mobility is intermodal transport. Nobody will book a train or a car. You’ll simply book a ride, and it won’t matter how you travel. We believe that the future product is the booking process and not the train itself.

“We have a good innovation network within the company but at the same time we believe we need to push the boundaries when it comes to visionary concepts for mobility. That’s why we’re going for the hackathon now,” concludes Claudia Falkinger, fellow Innovation Manager at the ÖBB.

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Note to the Editors

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