

Press Release

Neosfer puts IMPACT FESTIVAL in new hands - TechQuartier buys Europe's leading B2B event for sustainable innovation

Frankfurt am Main, March 10, 2025 – The success story of the IMPACT FESTIVAL continues. The festival is being handed over by neosfer to TechQuartier, the Frankfurt-based startup and innovation hub, that will now take over the organization and further development of Europe's largest B2B event for sustainable innovations. Planning is underway for the 2025 edition on November 26 and 27 in the Frankfurt Messe.

From vision to success

Neosfer is the original creator of The IMPACT FESTIVAL, which was conceived in 2019. As an early-stage investor and innovation unit of Commerzbank, neosfer already recognized the relevance of sustainable business models and invested in sustainability-focused startups. A platform was needed to bring together startups, investors, SMEs, and corporates.

“We saw a clear need at that time for a platform that would not only strengthen the sustainability scene but also actively foster exchange with established businesses. With the IMPACT FESTIVAL, we wanted to build that bridge between innovative solutions and the businesses,” explains Matthias Lais, who shares the neosfer managing director role with Kai Werner.

The event celebrated its premiere in 2021 and has since become a key meeting place for innovators, investors, and businesses actively shaping sustainable transformation. The move to Messe Frankfurt from Offenbach in 2024 marked another milestone in this success story.

During last year's fourth edition, the event welcomed over 12,000 participants and 600+ startups that showcased their innovations. Renowned figures like Dr. Eckart von Hirschhausen, German physician and talk show host; Mojib Latif, German meteorologist and oceanographer; and Prof. Dr. Joachim Schellnhuber, founding director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) and former chair of the German Advisory Council on Global Change, have appeared on the festival's stages.

New Perspectives for the Future – TechQuartier as the Perfect Successor

“As an innovation unit, we regularly ask ourselves what steps are needed to develop a project further and ensure its long-term success. Even with the IMPACT FESTIVAL, we thoroughly explored different options and realized

that at neosfer, we couldn't provide the environment that the event needs for further scaling," says Kai Werner.

TechQuartier is the perfect successor, and their team brings years of experience in promoting innovation and building networks. "The IMPACT FESTIVAL perfectly aligns with our mission to foster innovation and drive sustainable transformation. As a central innovation driver in Frankfurt's Financial Center, we have a strong ecosystem of startups, companies, hubs, and investors – both nationally and internationally. With this network, we will strategically develop the IMPACT FESTIVAL further and create new opportunities for exchange, growth, and collaboration," explains Alice Rettig, Managing Director of TechQuartier.

Committed Partners Actively Shape the Transformation

The swift cooperation with Baker McKenzie made the handover of the IMPACT FESTIVAL seamless. The law firm not only contributed its extensive expertise in contract design and regulatory issues but also shares a vision of a sustainable economy. Baker McKenzie is also strategically supporting the further development of the IMPACT FESTIVAL and has played a crucial role in strengthening its foundation.

Outlook: The IMPACT FESTIVAL Continues to Grow

Neosfer will remain closely connected to the festival and will continue to advise TechQuartier's team.

"We are proud to have developed the IMPACT FESTIVAL over the last four years, from an initial idea to a flagship event for the sustainable transformation of our economy. Now is the right time to pass the festival into new hands – and we couldn't have found a better partner than TechQuartier," emphasize Mr. Werner and Mr. Lais. The IMPACT FESTIVAL is evolving and aims to strengthen the event as a platform for sustainable innovations and networking. As the new organizer, TechQuartier will be clearly visible and present with its ecosystem.

Ms. Rettig highlights: "With more than 650 startups and 30 corporate partners, TechQuartier provides a strong platform for exchange and innovation. This broad network creates valuable synergies, benefiting not only the IMPACT FESTIVAL but also the entire ecosystem, which will be further strengthened through joint visibility and collaboration."

High-caliber content programming remains a key element of success. TechQuartier will focus on four diverse stages, on which renowned experts, startups, and companies will share their knowledge. Keynotes, panel discussions, and hands-on masterclasses will offer inspiration and concrete solutions for a sustainable economy.

At the same time, the festival atmosphere will be enhanced. A creative event design, interactive experience areas, and targeted networking spaces will create an environment that fosters exchange and brings sustainable innovations to life. The IMPACT FESTIVAL will remain more than just a conference – it will be a place where the right players meet and shape the future together.

For those who want to experience the event live, the IMPACT FESTIVAL will be held on November 26 - 27, 2025. The fifth edition will take place in Messe Frankfurt once again.

About TechQuartier

Since 2016, TechQuartier has served as a bridge between startup founders and established businesses, particularly in the areas of FinTech, GreenTech, and SMEs. The coworking space in Frankfurt provides a platform for exchange and collaboration through events, programs, and accelerators.

As an innovation driver in the financial hub of Frankfurt, TechQuartier was recognized in 2024 by the Digital Hub Initiative Germany (de:hub) as the official FinTech Hub Frankfurt. The goal is to promote the startup ecosystem in the Frankfurt Rhein-Main region and strengthen the region as an important innovation hotspot in Europe.

About neosfer

Neosfer GmbH, an early-stage investor and innovation unit of Commerzbank Group, investigates economically and socially relevant future technologies, promotes and develops sustainable digital solutions, and integrates them into Commerzbank and its customers' businesses. This is done through three areas: invest, build, and connect. Through strategic venture capital (invest), the in-house development of technologies and business models (build), and the creation of ecosystems around the sustainable and digital future of society (connect), neosfer creates access to innovations.

With a portfolio of over 30 digital and sustainable startups, the company continuously looks ahead and evolves. This has resulted in several successful prototypes that are now used within the Commerzbank Group. One of them is Lissi, which developed EUDI-Wallet connectors within the framework of the eIDAS 2.0 regulation and was the first independent startup founded by neosfer. Through its events, such as the monthly series "Between the Towers" and the IMPACT FESTIVAL, neosfer strengthens its network in the innovation, venture, and sustainability sectors.

Neosfer is a wholly owned subsidiary of Commerzbank AG, headquartered in Frankfurt am Main.

Press contact TechQuartier

Shary Schouler

Mail: schouler@techquartier.com

Web: <https://techquartier.com>

Press contact neosfer

Sarah Schütz

Tel: +49 151 52716123

Mail: presse@neosfer.com

Web: https://neosfer.de/