Press release

Vienna, 15.06.2023

EUROPE'S FIRST 5G CYBER SECURITY EXERCISE LAUNCHED IN AUSTRIA

The AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and Huawei jointly organised a practical 5G cyber security training at the "AIT Cyber Range - Training Center" in Austria. With the help of a reality-oriented simulation, the participants were able to practise the worst-case scenario and received valuable tips from renowned experts.

Vienna, 15 June 2023 - For many years, the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology has been supporting the improvement of cyber security in Europe and bringing together business, science, experts and policy makers. Huawei, as an international technology company and leading provider of 5G technologies, is committed to increasing the resilience of 5G networks in Austria and worldwide. On 14 June, the two companies jointly organised a 5G cyber security exercise at the AIT Cyber Range Training Center, where participants were able to train their tactical and operational skills in this important area.

The Head of Section for Innovation and Telecommunications at the Austrian Ministry of Finance, **Andreas Reichhardt**, emphasised the importance of cyber security for Austria as a business location: "Living in today's world means constantly evolving in all areas of infrastructure, technology and society. Cybersecurity helps us to ensure a future in which all these developments are possible."

Cyber Range: Simulation of reality

With the increasing use of open standards and mainstream digital platforms, the threat to 5G networks is more present than ever. The mobile and cyber security industry has already responded with high 5G security standards and policies. "Cyber Ranges" are increasingly being used as the optimal form of testing and training cyber security teams in real-world scenarios and against real threats. This is a flexible, digital simulation environment in which the detection and defence of a wide range of cyber attacks can be trained. Due to its established core competencies in the area of control systems for critical infrastructures, AIT was appointed official security partner of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 2022 and also regularly conducts transnational exercises with operators of critical infrastructures and authorities in Austria.

This successful international positioning was only possible thanks to the special Austrian security research funding programme KIRAS, which is financed by the Federal Ministry of Finance and enables the development of special expertise in Austria and supports close cooperation between research and public stakeholders.

Helmut Leopold, Head of the Center for Digital Safety & Security at AIT, emphasised: "Through the 'AIT Cyber Range', one of the world's most modern cyber security training platforms for the effective education and training of IT experts, management and policy makers, we are making a fundamentally important contribution to the design and operation of critical infrastructures. In this way, we can position Austria as an international role model for digital security.

From theory to practice

In order to make the workshop as practical as possible, the fictitious mobile phone provider "Prime Net Mobile" created as an internationally active company. A group of actors attempted to disrupt the company's business operations through targeted cyber attacks. Since the fictitious operator has branches in various European countries, both national and cross-border coordination, information and coordination processes had to be ensured when dealing with these incidents.

The respective teams had to master two tasks: On the one hand, they had to master technical and communicative tasks within the "AIT Cyber Range", on the other hand, the participants had to communicate with their respective authorities or contact persons.
In addition, the national Austrian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) served as the contact point for the tactical-operational teams in the simulation along the NIS reporting system.

Kevin Wang, Cybersecurity Officer of Huawei Europe Region, said: "Cybersecurity is Huawei's top priority. We are pleased to work with AIT to build a platform for 5G cybersecurity practices, where we can raise cybersecurity awareness, develop cybersecurity talents, test cyber resilience and conduct research and validation."

Further information about Huawei Technologies Austria:
https://grayling.uncovr.com/News.aspx?menueid=22194

Further information about the AIT Cyber Range - Training Center: https://cyberrange.at/

Press contact:
Michael W. Mürling Marketing and
Communications AIT Austrian
Institute of Technology Center for
Digital Safety & Security T +43
(0)664 235 17 47
michael.muerling@ait.ac.at I www.ait.ac.at

Mag. Michael H. Hlava
Head of Corporate and Marketing Communications
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology
T +43 (0)50550-4014
michael.hlava@ait.ac.at I www.ait.ac.at

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH
Giefinggasse 4 | 1210 Vienna, Austria | T +43 (0) 50 550-4015 | presse@ait.ac.at | www.ait.ac.at

2