Germany needs a comprehensive digital awakening. We want to leverage the potential of digitalisation in the interests of development opportunities for people, prosperity, freedom, social participation and sustainability. To do so, we shall set ambitious and measurable goals and take realistic and fast-acting measures. Competences in the Federal Government shall be reallocated and consolidated, a central additional digital budget introduced, and legislation shall be subject to a digitalisation check. Administration shall become more digital and consistently oriented to citizens’ needs. We shall promote digital innovations and entrepreneurial and social initiative and shall rely on open standards and diversity. We shall strengthen digital skills, fundamental rights, self-determination, and social cohesion. We shall ensure security and respect in times of transformation. We shall derive social progress from technological progress. In doing so, we acknowledge that a digital awakening which secures our values, digital sovereignty and a strong technological location can only succeed as part of a progressive European framework.

**Digital State and Digital Administration**

People expect the government to provide easily manageable and up-to-date digital services which are user-oriented, free from media interruption, and available nationwide. We shall prioritise automated solutions such as the automated payment of basic child allowance. The further development of the Online Accessibility Act (“Onlinezugangsgesetz”, OZG) also encompasses sufficient subsequent funding to support the clear standardisation and harmonisation of IT procedures according to a One-for-All (OfA) principle. As part of this IT consolidation, we shall establish clear responsibilities and centralise the Federal IT budget. We shall transform the Federal IT Cooperation (“Föderale IT-Kooperation”, FITKO) into an agile, flexible entity with a perennial global budget. Municipalities must benefit from Federal funds and be able to adopt solutions developed according to the OfA principle. Digitalisation obstacles (requirement for the written form etc.) shall be overcome through general clauses and terminology shall be made uniform (e.g., “Income”). Trustworthy, globally applicable ID management and modernisation of registries in conformity with the constitution shall take priority. Open standards shall be stipulated for public IT projects. As a rule, development contracts shall be awarded as open source contracts, thereby making the respective software fundamentally public. We shall establish a public administration cloud using a multi-cloud strategy, open interfaces and strict security and transparency provisions.

**Digital Infrastructure**

Our goal is the nationwide provision of fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) and the latest mobile telecommunications standard. Economically viable expansion shall take priority. We shall invest in particular in those places with the greatest backlog, first and foremost in white spots. In conformity
with investment protection, we shall enable open access at fair conditions, where necessary in a regulatory manner. We shall accelerate infrastructure expansion with lean digital application and authorisation procedures, standardisation of alternative installation technologies, and the establishment of a nationwide gigabit land register. We shall strengthen consumer protection with guaranteed bandwidths, where necessary with generally applicable The provider model shall take priority in the case of full public funding. We shall focus on entire clusters and make market consultation processes faster and more binding. We shall provide funding using vouchers in addition to FTTH and in-house fibre optic cable installation where necessary. We shall consolidate competences and remits for landline and mobile telecommunications. We shall orientate frequency allocation towards area supply provisions; negative auctions shall also be permitted. We shall accelerate measures to improve mobile and Wi-Fi reception on trains. We are assessing measures to improve digital participation for everyone, e.g., accessibility. We shall ensure network neutrality.

**Digital Civil Rights and IT-Security**

We shall strengthen civil rights and IT security. Ensuring them is a governmental duty. We shall introduce a right to encryption, effective weak point management with the aim of eliminating vulnerabilities, and “security-by-design/default” guidelines. The government must also be obliged to offer the option of truly encrypted communication. Manufacturers shall be liable for damages caused by negligent IT vulnerabilities in their products. Cyber security strategies and IT security legislation shall be developed further. Furthermore, we shall ensure digital sovereignty, including the right to interoperability and portability, and reliance on open standards, open source and European ecosystems for 5G and AI, for instance. We shall initiate IT security architecture restructuring, shall grant the Federal Office for Information Security (“Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik”, BSI) more independence, and expand it as a central entity for IT security. We shall obligate all government authorities to report any known vulnerabilities to the BSI and to undergo regular external inspection of the IT systems. The identification, reporting and elimination of vulnerabilities as part of a responsible process, e.g., IT security research, ought to be enabled by law. We object to hackbacks as a cyber defence means in general. Untrustworthy companies shall not be contracted for the expansion of critical infrastructures.

**Use of Data and Data Law**

We shall leverage the potential of data for everyone by supporting the expansion of data infrastructures and working together with industry, science and civil society to launch tools such as data trustees, data hubs and data donations. We shall strive for improved access to data, in particular to enable innovative business models and social innovations in digitalisation for start-ups and SMEs. A Data Institute will drive data availability and standardization, establish data fiduciary models and
licensing. Insofar as local governments require access to company data in the fulfilment of their public service duties, we shall provide this at fair conditions in conformity with competition law. We shall strengthen standardised and machine-readable access to self-generated data for all those who participated in its creation. The necessary legal foundations for these measures shall be provided by a Data Act. We shall promote anonymisation technologies, ensure legal security through standards, and criminalise illegal de-anonymisation. We shall introduce a legal right to open data and improve the data expertise of public authorities. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a good international standard. In the interests of improving data protection enforcement, we shall strengthen European cooperation, institutionalise the data protection conference in the Federal Data Protection Act (“Bundesdatenschutzgesetz”, BDSG), and, where possible, grant it legally binding decision-making authority. We shall introduce employee data protection regulations to achieve legal clarity for employers and employees and to effectively protect personal rights. We are committed to the swift adoption of an ambitious E-Privacy Regulation.

Digital Society

We shall support digital volunteering, make it more visible, and strengthen it legally. Civil society shall be better involved in digital policy projects and shall support civil society in areas such as diversity and civic tech in particular. Within the auspices of the Digital Services Act, we are committed to protecting communication freedoms, strong user rights, clear reporting procedures, access to very large platforms’ data for research purposes, the verifiability of their algorithmic systems, and clear regulations against disinformation. We shall comprehensively revise the legal framework (including the Telemedia Act (“Telemediengesetz”, TMG) and Network Enforcement Act (“Netzwerkdurchsetzungsgesetz”, NetzDG)) on the basis of the European guidelines. We shall promote the establishment of platform councils. We object to general monitoring obligations, measures for scanning private communication, and an identification obligation. We shall preserve anonymous and pseudonymous online use. We shall implement legislation against digital violence to remove legal obstacles for affected persons such as information duty loopholes and introduce extensive advisory services. We shall establish legal framework conditions for electronic reporting procedures and for private procedures and shall enable account blocking by judicial order. We shall assess the establishment of a Federal Agency for Digital Education.

Digital Key Technologies

We shall become the driver of a strong technology location based on European values, which attracts talent whilst securing our nation's future sustainability and prosperity. We shall measurably boost investments and set priorities in Artificial Intelligence, quantum technologies, cyber security, Distributed-Ledger-Technology (DLT), robotics and other future technologies. We shall strengthen
strategic technological sectors, e.g., through Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs), and shall forward the announced EU Chips Act. Together with our European partner nations, we shall promote cooperation between strong European research locations, in particular into AI, and shall establish institutional freedoms. As a learning, technology-promoting nation, we shall implement digital innovations in administration and establish the necessary legal basis and transparency. We support the European AI Act. We follow a multi-level, risk-based approach, uphold digital civil rights, in particular freedom from discrimination, define liability regulations, and avoid innovation-impeding ex-ante regulation. Biometric recognition in public spaces and automated state scoring systems using AI shall be precluded in accordance with European law.

**Sustainability in Digitalization**

We want to leverage the potential of digitalisation to generate more sustainability. We help to reduce resource consumption by promoting digital twins (e.g. working on a virtual model of an analogue product). We shall align computer centres in Germany with ecological sustainability and climate protection requirements, for instance by harnessing waste heat. New computer centres shall be climate neutral as of 2027. Public computer centres shall introduce an EMAS (Eco Management and Audit Scheme) environmental management system by 2025. Certifications such as the Blauer Engel shall be standard for government IT procurement. It shall be mandatory for replacement parts and software updates to be available for IT devices’ useful lives. This must be made transparent to users.

**Digital Economy**

We support a level competitive playing field and are committed to ambitious Digital Markets Act (DMA) regulations which must not be allowed to fall behind existing national legislation. That also includes uniform European interoperability obligations and fusion control regulations. We shall strengthen the Federal Cartel Office’s authority in dealing with platforms. We shall promote digital start-ups in late-phase financing and strengthen the Venture-Captial location. We want to increase the number of female founders in the digital sector. To do so, we shall introduce a scholarship for female founders and earmark part of the future fund for them. Public tendering and procurement procedures shall be simplified for GovTech and EduTech start-ups. We shall make employee equity participation for start-ups more attractive. We shall strengthen Germany as a games location and continue to promote it. We shall assist SMEs with digitalisation by providing uncomplicated funding and more support for IT security, GDPR-conform data processing and the use of digital technologies.