Press Release

Rydies: Investment in digital bicycle mobility

- **innogy Innovation Hub and in-tech GmbH decide to invest in Rydies**

- **Rydies provides digital information and booking opportunities for parking, renting and charging bicycles and e-bikes.**

- **The aim of the B2B2C platform is to digitalise and connect all services relating to urban bicycle mobility**

The innogy Innovation Hub and the software engineering company in-tech sign an agreement of participation in Rydies. The newly founded startup company provides digital information and booking opportunities for parking, renting and charging bicycles and e-bikes. With the digitalisation and networking of urban bicycle mobility, Rydies will help to use the boom in e-bikes and bicycles to reduce the growing traffic problems in German cities. Cyclists have so far lacked any overview of where they can safely park and charge their expensive bicycles and e-bikes. Rydies closes this gap by making this information available in digital format.

Two especially innovative and burgeoning companies, innogy Innovation Hub and in-tech, are investing in Rydies GmbH. The innogy Innovation Hub is a place that identifies and fosters investment and growth activities based on the development of digital business models that hold a disruptive business potential. The Innovation Hub is a full subsidiary of innogy SE, which started as a listed subsidiary of the German energy provider RWE on 1 April 2016. It operates distribution networks, distributes energy and generates energy from renewable sources. It is in the process of expanding its network of charging stations for e-bikes, and thus falls right in line with Rydies. The engineering specialist firm in-tech GmbH focuses on electromobility, autonomous driving, carsharing and multimodal mobility. "With in-tech, Rydies has found a partner that can contribute extensive competence in software mobility engineering. innogy's extensive network and experience in e-mobility are a perfect complement to the concept of Rydies," says Andreas Nelskamp.

Rapid urbanisation is simply compounding the existing problems of cities polluted by exhaust fumes and fine particulates and is presenting new challenges for the overloaded roads and public transport providers. It is clear that these traffic problems would be alleviated if more people were to drive less and opt instead for more environmentally friendly forms of transport like buses, trains or even bicycles and e-bikes. E-bikes are a hot trend; in Germany alone, around 600,000 e-bikes were sold last year at an average price of 2,800 euros. This high price is certainly part of the problem. "In the city, I am always worried about my expensive bike being stolen. So I thought: why not create a portal where people can find secure parking and other services for their bikes," says Andreas Nelskamp, founder and CEO of Rydies. Commuters, business travellers or tourists, for example, can find helpful information on the web/app for getting around by bike and making connections with other forms of transport. This increased direct and interconnected mobility, whether on a private or a hired bike, gives people the chance to turn urban mobility on two wheels into the strongest of modern trends.

Rydies aggregates the data from operators of parking and charging stations for bicycles and e-bikes. This includes details of sharing opportunities and rental bikes as well as online booking and payment functions. As a so-called B2B2C platform, Rydies makes this data primarily available to mobility providers. This includes bus and rail companies, local public transport providers, maps and navigation services, developers of connected bike/car solutions, and cities and municipalities. "We provide digital information and booking options for bicycle mobility in cities and allow mobility providers to create intermodal links with their offers. This makes it easier for the end users to make connections with or make the full switch to a bike," says Andreas Nelskamp. "Young people are already accustomed to using car sharing and public transport apps for their own mobility, as digital information and booking services. But the one thing that has been lacking so far is apps for bikes. Rydies closes this gap and allows people to integrate their private bike into urban mobility." If needed, individual providers can use the software solutions Rydies provides to digitalise their offers and thus link them with the offers of other mobility service providers.

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Rydies GmbH, founded in 2017, digitalises and links all kinds of information and services relating to bicycles and e-bikes. The company thereby shows where in the city people can safely and affordably park and charge their private bikes, and where they can also find bike sharing and hiring services. Booking and payment information and software solutions for operators are coming soon. This helps cities and municipalities as much as mobility providers and other service providers to create new and better services for greater mobility on two wheels, and thus to relieve the congestion on city roads.