



iPoint

iPoints

The customer magazine of iPoint-systems

06 / December 2018



Our Roadmap to a Sustainable Future





“For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you.”

THE UNITED NATIONS

Imprint

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Dear Readers,

How can we contribute to securing a sustainable world for future generations? The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – aka Global Goals – offer a valuable roadmap which supports us in navigating the major environmental, social, and economic challenges we face today. They are part of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aims to end poverty, reduce inequalities, conserve the environment, and tackle climate change by 2030. Encouragingly, the SDGs are gaining momentum in the corporate world – just like sustainability 2.0, Circular Economy, resource efficiency, social compliance, and Blockchain.

iPoint, too, is fully committed to these topics, providing solutions to support your journey to sustainability – across the entire life cycle of your products and across your value creation network. This customer magazine issue focuses on the SDGs and also contains several other highlights on our way to a sustainable future.

Enjoy the read. I look forward to our future cooperation!



Joerg Walden, CEO iPoint-systems



For our upcoming customer event, the municipal hall of Reutlingen will raise the iPoint flags again.

FW: TRANSPARENCY

Save the Date!

 We're excited to announce the date of our 2019 customer event, which we are hosting under the new title *fw: transparency* on **June 26th and 27th** in Reutlingen, Germany.

Look forward to two packed days full of workshops, presentations, panels, working groups and excellent networking opportunities during the evening programme. Stay tuned for updates!

INNOVATION

Think Tank “Industrial Resource Strategies”

Together with partners from academia and industry – among them iPoint –, the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg has founded the Think Tank “Industrial Resource Strategies” (Industrielle Ressourcenstrategien), which advises politicians and industry on resource and efficiency issues. A brand new brochure, published by the Think Tank in December 2018, is dedicated to the use of Blockchain technology for industrial production and the digital circular economy. iPoint has contributed several articles to this brochure.

AWARD

iPoint One of the Most Trustworthy Companies of 2018

The Silicon Review magazine, a trusted online and print community for business and tech leaders, has honoured iPoint as one of the ‘50 Most Trustworthy Companies of the Year 2018’. The program identifies companies which are successful in bringing more service to the IT and Business world than others. Earning a spot on this list indicates the company has distinguished itself from peers by proving itself more valuable in terms of reliability, loyal customer base, innovation, and market position. We are very pleased about this award and thank you for your trust!

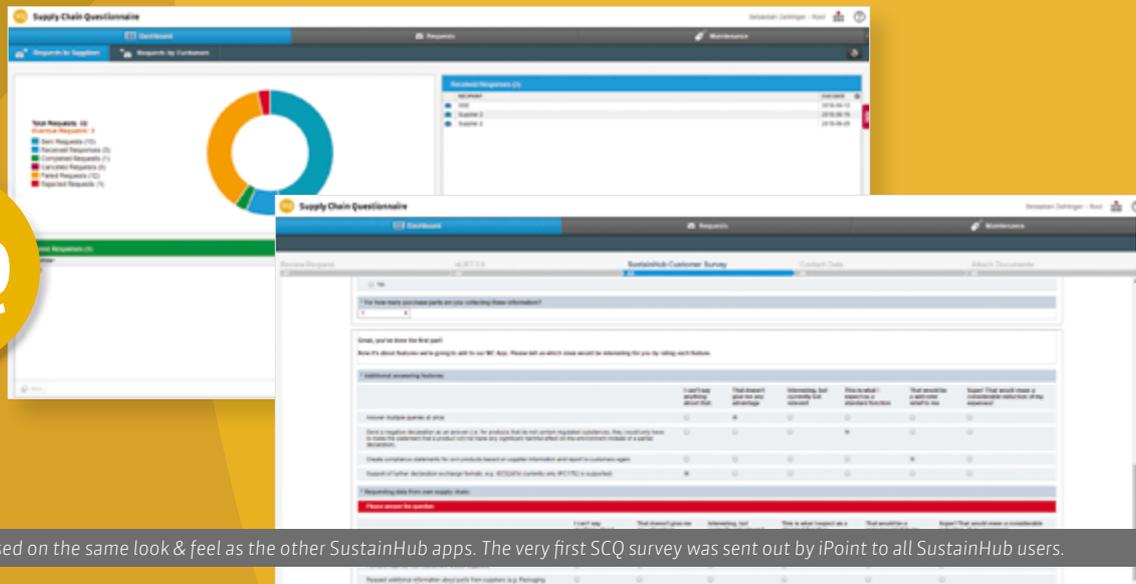
iPoint’s First Corporate Sustainability Report

On August 7, 2017, iPoint became a proud signatory of the UN Global Compact (UNGC). Upon joining the world’s largest corporate responsibility initiative, we have committed ourselves to support, implement, and uphold the UNGC’s Ten Principles. In our first annual Communication on Progress report, published on August 7th, 2018, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the UNGC’s Ten Principles into our business strategy, culture, and daily operations. You can access our report via this website:

 www.ipoint-systems.com/company/we-live-sustainability/



SCQ



The SCQ app is based on the same look & feel as the other SustainHub apps. The very first SCQ survey was sent out by iPoint to all SustainHub users.

SUPPLY CHAIN QUESTIONNAIRE APP

A Survey Tool that Grows with Your Supply Chain

In November 2018, iPoint launched a new app for the SustainHub platform as a perfect addition to the existing apps Material Compliance (MC), Conflict Minerals (CM), and Product Chem Risk (PCR). The new Supply Chain Questionnaire app (SCQ) enables you to collect all kinds of information and enhance your supply chain communication. You can create fully flexible questionnaires based on customizable templates and send out additional campaigns to your suppliers to request information aside from substance- or material-based regulations.

The best way to get information is to just ask

With the new Supply Chain Questionnaire, you can immediately start communicating with your supply chain— whether you want to gather information on social issues like human trafficking or anti-slavery, get statements on the usage of cobalt, or find out if your suppliers are prepared for BREXIT.

Your benefits

The new Supply Chain Questionnaire app provides several clear and convincing benefits: The setup of questionnaires for your supply chain is easy, quick, and user-friendly, because it allows you to use ready-made questions in multiple languages. The app saves you a lot of time, since the distribution is very efficient. The powerful tool sends out a high volume of questionnaires with a great reach in a short time. As the SCQ app sends out the requests via SustainHub to your suppliers, the app attracts more responses than other tools, which means the response rate is extremely high. Using the SCQ app facilitates the response process for your suppliers, as they are used to receive and respond to requests via SustainHub. With the SCQ app you can get exactly the data you need, in real time, keep the overview of all your responses and centrally manage them on SustainHub.

Additionally, the responses are easy to export or visualize in graphical charts.

Features

With the SCQ app you can collect real data, not only answers: e.g. the app enables you to check your suppliers' answers against the history of their previous responses. As usual in the SustainHub, your suppliers can use the free Basic license to answer your questions. There they will be guided through the response process and will have the option to reject requests and give a reason for the rejection, answer several questionnaires and attach supporting or requested documents.

Functionalities

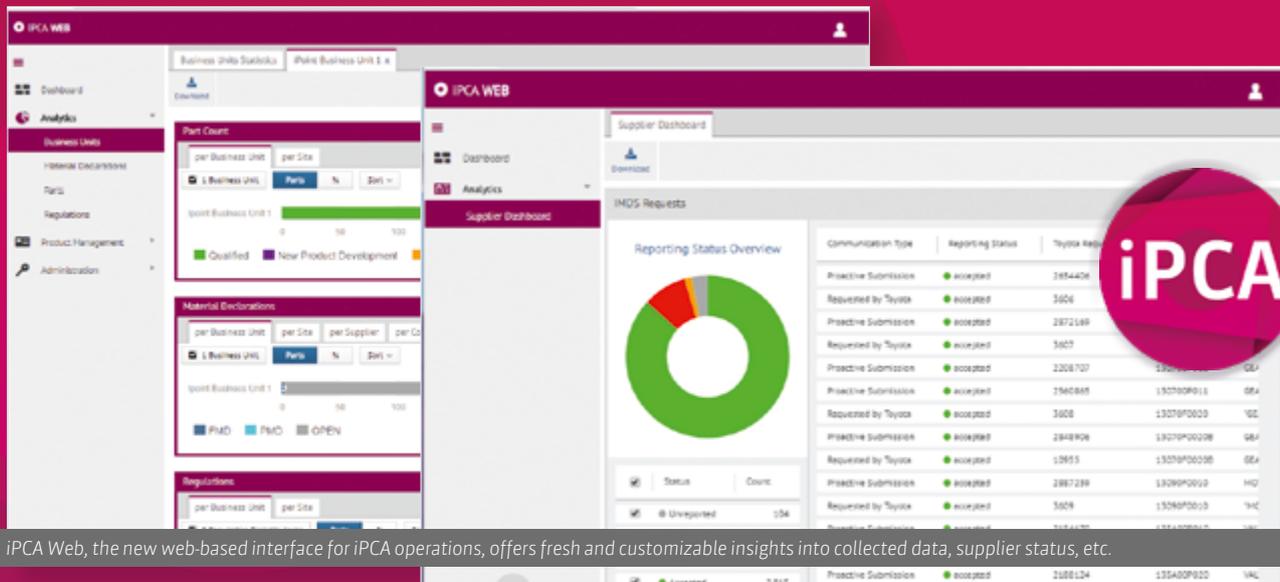
The Supply Chain Questionnaire app supports multiple languages and allows you to request additional documents in specific languages. Additionally, the app enables you to send out campaigns to suppliers which consist not only of one but of multiple questionnaires. You can easily evaluate the responses for your requests with the app, since you have the possibility of a review and acceptance handling of responses. The Supply Chain Questionnaire app provides you with the results in real-time via your dashboard to monitor and optimize the performance of your campaigns.

Outlook

As an additional functionality, a rating of your supplier's answers is planned to help you run a risk evaluation of each of your suppliers.

Learn more about the Supply Chain Questionnaire:

www.ipoint-systems.com/solutions/supply-chain-questionnaire/



iPCA Web, the new web-based interface for iPCA operations, offers fresh and customizable insights into collected data, supplier status, etc.

iPOINT COMPLIANCE AGENT (iPCA)

Customized Transparency with iPCA Web

The new web-client of the iPoint Compliance Agent, iPCA Web, enables companies to advance transparency in their supply chain and provide their managers and specialists with exactly the data they need. At Toyota, for example, iPCA Web supports users from different areas with individually adapted insights: Combining the efficient and time-saving data collection and analysis functionalities of iPCA with the intuitive and customizable user interface of iPCA Web, compliance managers, quality officers as well as engineers can focus on those areas of work that are really relevant to them.

iPCA Web captivates due to its User-Centered Design

Compliance confirmations and full-material-declarations on the materials and substances of product components are collected along the whole supply chain, merged and analyzed by iPCA. For data collection in the automotive sector iPCA resorts to the International Material Data System (IMDS). iPCA Web's user-centered insights facilitate the everyday struggle with this complex data gathered by iPCA and IMDS.

The state-of-the-art user interface of iPCA Web is designed to be self-explanatory and easy to use, as it is developed following the User-Centered Design approach. In other words, iPCA Web provides a solutions-oriented user interface that focuses on individual usability goals. Since a quality manager may pursue a different purpose checking data in iPCA than an engineer or a supplier, iPCA Web is designed to customize very complex data to the different stakeholder's intentions and provide the respective data that each individual stakeholder is looking for. E.g., the stakeholders not only have easy and quick access to statistics, but they can also create charts based on their individual selection

and map the results. Moreover, managers even have the possibility to compare data from different business units. For those reasons, iPCA Web is suitable for companies that use iPCA and have a great number of stakeholders utilizing iPCA for different purposes.

iPCA Web functionalities will grow in the future

With iPCA Web we build on the range of advantages which web-based applications offer – such as fast and flexible availability, easy maintenance of updates and smart management.

Currently, iPCA Web is mostly a user interface tool to optimize the insight into the data, but it does not yet offer any editing options. This will change: iPoint plans to extend the new iPCA Web-Client to a module-based solution by adding a range of functionalities. iPoint's development team has already started building a Life Cycle Management module for iPCA Web, which will be available soon. A continuous development to manage more and more functionalities via iPCA Web is aspired.

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iPoint Inc. President Marc Church hosted the German customer conference in Reutlingen.

REVIEW: iPOINT CUSTOMER EVENTS 2018

iPoint Customer Events in Germany and the USA

- The iPoint customer events in Reutlingen and Ann Arbor, Michigan, were special highlights this year.

The Customer Day in Reutlingen took place on June 26 in the Stadthalle Reutlingen – the first and only municipal hall (“Stadthalle”) in Germany to hold climate-neutral events. Nearly 100 participants accepted iPoint’s invitation and enjoyed a varied programme, which offered presentations from the business and academic world as well as networking and discussion opportunities. The keynote speaker was Christian Kuehne, PhD, Deputy Head of the Division Environmental Technology, Research and Ecology at the Minis-

try of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector of the German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, who spoke on “Business Value of the Circular Economy”. This was followed by several presentations by expert speakers, who provided insights into the latest trends in product compliance and sustainability, highlighted integration as the key to the Circular Economy, and explained the added value of compliance, sustainability and supply chain management for companies.

Almost three months later, on September 25, we hosted our US iPoint Customer Day in Ann Arbor, Michigan, which was addressed to OEMs and suppliers using the iPoint Compliance Agent (iPCA). This interactive conference focused on best practices regarding business processes, updates to iPoint’s solutions and product roadmaps, and an outlook on the future of iPoint’s applications.

Both customer events were a great success and attracted a lot of interest. Special thanks go to our speakers and all participants. The preparations for our customer events next year have already started. We’ll keep you in the loop!



Keynote speaker Dr. Christian Kuehne from the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection & the Energy Sector Baden-Wuerttemberg.



iPoint CEO Joerg Walden and one half of the participants at the German customer conference.



Sushma Kittali-Weidner and Joerg Walden at the U.S. customer conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



The ifu team is happy about the success of the event.

REVIEW: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY MEETING 2018

Together for More Efficiency

On October 26, 2018, the experts from iPoint's subsidiary ifu Hamburg hosted the "Ressourceneffizienz Treff" (resource efficiency meeting) in Hamburg. Exciting speakers and more than 80 participants contributed to the success of the event.

The event began with a panel discussion. Representatives of nachhaltig.digital, the Efficiency Agency NRW, and the Institute for Industrial Ecology discussed the question: "Resource efficiency through digitization: myth or reality" moderated by Martina Prox, ifu Hamburg. There was agreement in the discussion that the data already available form an excellent basis for tackling sustainable growth. Common conclusion: In order to successfully use digitization for resource-efficient and sustainable production, the human factor, i.e. the teams in the companies, plays the key role. The event brought together actors from companies, public authorities, science and the consulting context and enabled a practice-oriented exchange on material and energy efficiency.

The speakers at a glance:

- Prof. Dr. Mario Schmidt, INEC Institute for Industrial Ecology
- Dr. Bjoern Dietrich, Hamburg Ministry of the Environment and Energy
- Juergen Roemhild, Umwelttechnik BW GmbH
- Volker Jahnke, Entwicklungsgesellschaft Brunsbüttel mbH
- Werner Carstensen, Holcim Germany GmbH
- Benjamin Flaig, Alfred Ritter GmbH & Co. KG
- Hamid Zazai, Nestlé Germany AG
- Florian Schrader, Georgsmarienhütte GmbH

- Dr. Cyrus Bark, C&C Bark Metalldruckguss und Formenbau GmbH
- Julian Nuss, Junker-Filter GmbH
- Michael Haarup Hansen, EnergySolution A/S

Jan Hedemann, Managing Director of ifu Hamburg, concluded the conference by summarizing the contents and outlook of the conference: "Resource Efficiency and Industry 4.0 – The Future Starts Now".

Detailed reports and videos of the event can be found at:

➔ go.ifu.com/ress_eff_treff



The panel discussion at the beginning was a perfect introduction to the conference.



The breaks were used for intensive discussions.



COMPANY PORTRAIT

CircularTree Uses Blockchain Technology for Supply Chain Transparency

More and more people are consuming more consciously and want to know where a product they buy comes from and under what conditions it is manufactured. At the same time, media pressure on companies to bring transparency into their supply chains and take responsibility for social and environmental standards is increasing. In a recent interview, Gunter Walden (GW), founder and CEO of CircularTree, Member of iPoint Group, explains how blockchain technology can help companies to implement these requirements.

Mr. Walden, what exactly does CircularTree do and what is your goal?

GW: We want to provide information about the material composition of products for an efficient Circular Economy. We are currently working on a project that aims to make the origin and social and environmental standards of conflict minerals digitally available throughout the supply chain with the blockchain. This enables OEMs to meet their sustainability targets for the raw materials they use (see infobox).

How do you bring sustainability and digitization together? What digital innovations do you use to pursue sustainable goals?

GW: We build on blockchain technology to securely track information across multiple supply chain actors – e.g., from the mine to the smelter. This enables information on social and environmental standards to reach OEMs. The OEMs then have the opportunity to directly participate in improving working and environmental conditions through agreements with the mine.

What is the mission of your startup? What motivated you to start a sustainable digital business?

GW: Joerg Walden, one of our founders, founded iPoint in 2001 to offer companies solutions for product compliance and sustainability. The founders of CircularTree realized that the blockchain opens new opportunities for OEMs to get information directly from the source of raw materials that cannot be manipulated by ‘middlemen’.

How does your startup make a positive contribution to the environment or society?

GW: Currently there is little transparency concerning the environmental impact of consuming products containing raw materials from developing countries with lower environmental and social standards. Our goal is to achieve responsibility on the part of consumers and companies based on greater transparency so that social and environmental standards can be improved.

Do you collect the data you need and if so, can environmental sustainability effects be measured or estimated?

GW: We see ourselves as a service provider that creates transparency and can thus say which standards are being adhered to. Of course, this involves energy and resource expenses, which must be included in the overall assessment. Our clear goal is to keep the effort as low as possible.

A look into the future: What opportunities do you see in digitalization for a sustainable future worth living in – and what risks?

GW: Digitalization offers the opportunity to make processes much more efficient and transparent. Thereby,



The SustainBlock team – Benjamin Clair (BetterChain), Sebastian Galindo (iPoint) & Gunther Walden (CircularTree) – at the OECD Blockchain Policy Forum.

direct sustainable effects can be achieved or improvement measures can be initiated through the concrete interrelationships. But it is also clear that digitalization alone will not create a sustainable future worth living in.

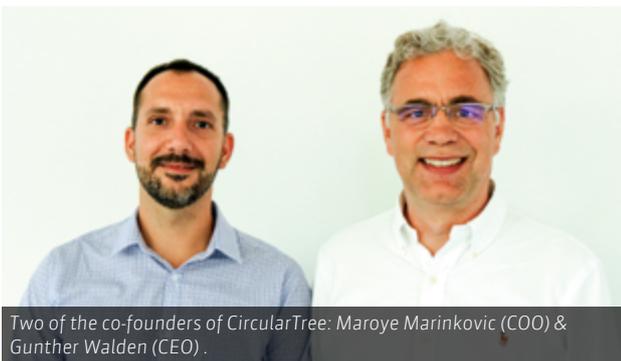
The transparency resulting from digitalization must be used to actually make the processes more sustainable. Digitalization even supports this, but the initiative must come from responsible people.

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This company portrait was published in November 2018 by nachhaltig.digital, the German competence platform for sustainability and digitization in small and medium-sized businesses.

Further information:

- ➔ <https://nachhaltig.digital/>
- ➔ www.circulartree.com



Two of the co-founders of CircularTree: Maroye Marinkovic (COO) & Gunther Walden (CEO).

IN FOCUS

SustainBlock

- ➔ The SustainBlock project, funded by the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals (EPRM), uses blockchain technology to track certain raw materials from conflict-affected and high-risk areas – tin, tantalum, tungsten, their ores and gold, as well as cobalt – throughout the supply chain. The pilot project focuses on such a mineral from mines in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

In this project, CircularTree supports iPoint-systems in establishing a traceability process from the mine to the store, demonstrating the end-users' responsibility for the upstream due diligence process. Thereby, Blockchain-based traceability and data reporting will be used in a decentralized network so that all participants in the supply chain – from upstream to downstream and end consumers – have access to reliable and verified information across all relevant stages of the supply chain.

SustainBlock is implemented in cooperation with upstream partners who collect data directly from audited mines on site and feed it into the blockchain in real time.

Learn more about the SustainBlock project here:

- ➔ www.sustainblock.org



When it comes to consumer protection, California is also a pioneer on the regulatory wave.

INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS

The new California Proposition 65 Warning Regulations

On October 16th, iPoint's compliance experts Eva Hink and Marcos Medalla gave an update on the new California Proposition 65 Warning Labels. With over 700 registrants the webinar aroused considerable interest.

Background

The so-called California Proposition 65 (or Prop 65), officially The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, is a Californian Law that came into effect in 1986. Its goal is to protect residents of California from exposition to listed chemicals. Based on Prop 65, the State of California publishes a list of chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects, or being otherwise harmful to reproduction. The list is updated every year and grew to over 800 substances since its first publication in 1987.

The law obliges manufacturers bringing products onto the Californian market to provide information for the public concerning the content of these listed substances and thus potential exposition risk by their products. This warning label shall enable consumers to be aware of this exposure hazard. Its shape and content are defined by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and can be downloaded on their website.

Why Prop. 65 cannot be ignored

Failure to comply with labelling according to Prop 65 will result in severe penalties. Primary enforcement agency for violations of Prop 65 is the California Attorney General's Office, however enforcement actions may also be initiated by any individual. A company in violation of Prop 65 can be subject to penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation, per day. Thus, compliance with this regulation cannot be ignored.

New labelling requirements effective since end of August 2018.

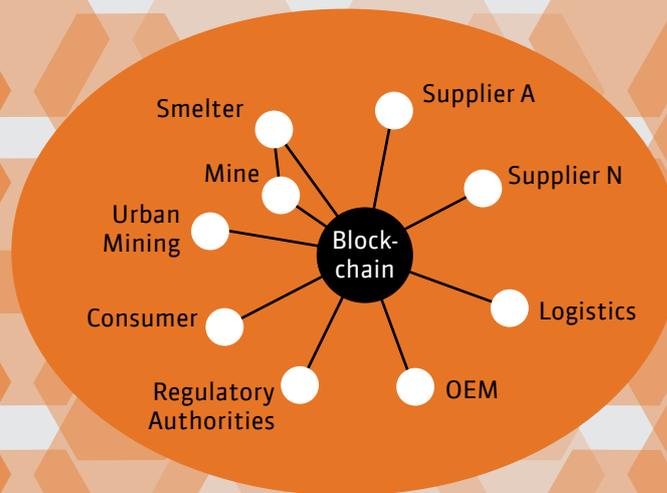
Since the initial labelling requirements of Prop 65 have been overused in order to avoid any kind of liability, risk of exposition became unclear for consumers. Therefore, these requirements have been reworked to be more concrete and provide helpful. The new labelling requirements have become effective on August 30th, 2018. Now, labels should include a link to OEHHA website and warning signs to make the warnings more meaningful. With the new expression of "exposes" instead of "contains", there have to be listed at least one chemical on the warning label.

Primary responsibility for the compliance is borne by the manufacturer, packager, importer or supplier. The retailer instead is only responsible for placement and maintenance of the warning except for retailers selling under their own brand and some other exemptions. The new regulatory program includes provisions for internet sales to place a warning on the product display page. This makes it an issue for all to consider, regardless of whether a company's facility is based in California.

California Proposition 65 - Service Package

iPoint offers services and software solutions for an easier, time saving and more effective dealing with Material Compliance like Prop 65. With the cloud-based Material Compliance app on iPoint's SustainHub platform or the iPoint Compliance Agent providing information has never been easier. To ensure your product's compliance with Prop 65 requirements we have created a special Prop 65 service package for you. More information here:

➔ <https://bit.ly/2RYW1DB>



Blockchain providing verified information from and for all stakeholders.

INNOVATION & BUSINESS

How can Blockchain Support Sustainable Business Models?

Suppose we already had a Digital Twin with verified information on all raw materials and components in a supply chain used in the end product on a blockchain. At each step, the information about the origin of the materials and components would be documented. What possibilities could this information open up?

Since all information about the supply chain and origin is available, it is possible to see where the raw materials used in the end product come from and whether the mines have been certified as conflict-free or not. The information could also be used to prove that the product and its components actually come from the brand owner and are not counterfeit products. With this information, the „raw material value“ of the products can be calculated at any time on the basis of the current raw material prices. With this knowledge, an OEM could make the consumer an offer to buy back the old product towards the end of its life cycle and offer him a discount on the purchase of a new product.

If this concept is continued in the sense of the XaaS¹ model, companies could offer the use of raw materials as a service instead of selling them. This business model, which is conducive to the Circular Economy, can create an additional incentive for suppliers and OEMs to build their components and products in such a way that the dismantling and recovery of raw materials from products (urban mining) become much more efficient.

This Cradle to Cradle® concept² would not only make companies less dependent on fluctuations of raw material prices, but would also represent the ideal case for the recycling industry. With the detailed information of Blockchain,

companies and regulatory authorities could automatically check whether a product meets local regulations for the use of certain materials or specific certifications required in the country to which it is shipped.

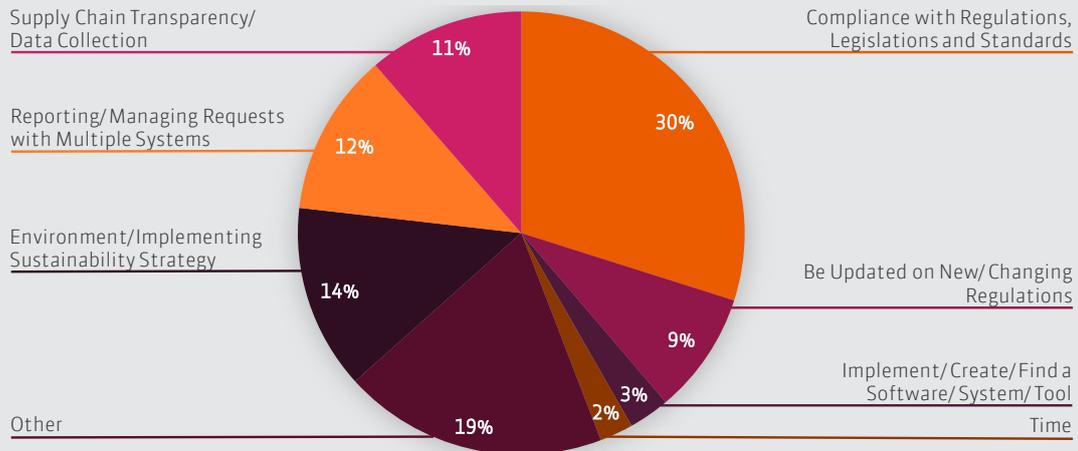
New laws restricting certain materials or their use, for example because they are potentially hazardous or harmful, could easily be enforced, even if products containing these materials are already in the supply chain or are already in the possession of the consumer.

Of course, it will take some time for suppliers, OEMs, partners, and regulatory authorities to reach a consensus on what data is actually visible to others and what data is confidential and should not be shared with everyone. However, this is a purely organizational problem, and Blockchain technology offers appropriate solutions for securing the confidentiality of information.

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Text: Joerg Walden, Gunther Walden. Excerpt from the German brochure „Blockchain Technologie für die industrielle Produktion und Digitale Kreislaufwirtschaft“ („Blockchain Technology for Industrial Production and Digital Recycling“). Published by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate Protection and the Energy Sector Baden-Württemberg. To be published in December 2018.

¹ XaaS is also known as “Everything as a Service” model.

² Cradle to Cradle® is a design concept developed in the 1990s by Prof. Dr. Michael Braungart, William McDonough and scientists of EPEA Internationale Umweltforschung.



What is your greatest compliance and/or sustainability challenge for 2018?

SUSTAINABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

New Study Reveals What Kept You Busy in 2018

At the beginning of 2018, iPoint started to conduct a survey on sustainability and compliance trends via our company website – and the response was overwhelming: To date, more than 450 participants from different industries provided information on the top sustainability and compliance challenges their companies are facing.

Challenges 2018

The survey revealed that compliance with regulations such as REACH, RoHS, California Proposition 65, and Conflict Minerals posed the greatest challenge in 2018. The implementation of a sustainability strategy, including a sustainable attitude as well as adapting the production processes, was mentioned as the second most challenging issue, followed by the general management of requests and reporting due to the many requests by multiple customers using different systems. Other challenges mentioned by the participants were aspects related to collecting data on material composition, e.g. getting information from suppliers in time, as well as keeping updated in the ever-changing regulatory landscape.

The most effective solution

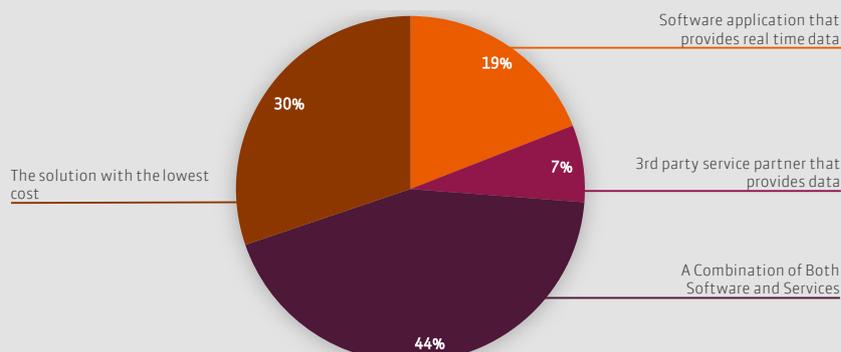
iPoint also asked the participants about the most effective solution to acquire the cleanest and most accurate compliance data. The most common answer provided was a combination of both software and services. But for a relatively large percentage, money also mattered: 30% stated they would prefer the solution with the lowest cost. About a fifth of the surveyed named a software application that provides real data as most effective solution.

The survey provided us valuable insights into your typical sustainability and compliance challenges, which we can take into account when developing our solutions.

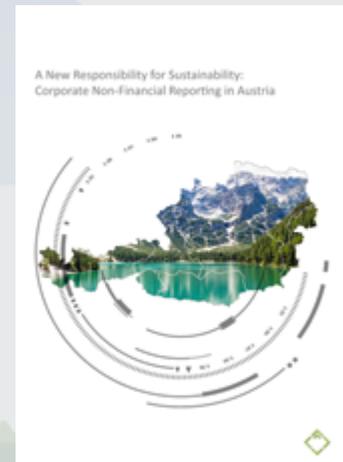
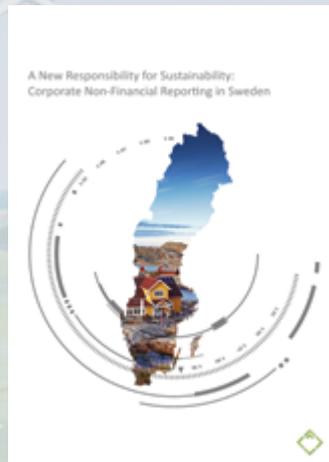
In 2019, iPoint will continue with a slightly altered version of the survey. Thank you for your support!

Check out our blog for more:

➔ www.ipoint-systems.com/blog



What do you see as the most effective solution for acquiring the cleanest and most accurate compliance data?



The title pages of the three reports with the focus on Germany, Sweden, and Austria.

NEW REPORT:

Corporate Performance on the EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive

● The EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD) 2014/95/EU was adopted by the European Union in 2014, amending Directive 2013/34/EU, adding enhanced non-financial disclosure requirements to existing legislation. The directive applies to the current 28 member states of the EU, and was required to be transposed into the respective national laws by December 6, 2016, with companies obliged to provide enhanced reports from 2017 onwards.

With this new directive, public-interest entities in EU member states no longer only report on their financial basics and forward-looking risk discussion. They now also retrospectively account for their non-financial footprint, including adverse impacts they have on the environment and society. Article 1 of the Directive states that the non-financial disclosure must contain information including: “e. non-financial key performance indicators relevant to the particular business.”

A new iPoint-funded baseline study conducted by Development International e.V., a not-for-profit research organization specialized in evaluations, systematically assesses the degree of non-financial transparency and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) performance for 2017 in Germany, Sweden, and Austria. The comprehensive study – to date the only one to focus on ESG content in non-financial corporate reports – applies an ex-post assessment framework premised on 70+ key performance indicators taken from the reporting frameworks of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), the German Sustainability Codex (DNK), and UN Global Compact. This deep-dive into the five required disclosure areas – environmental, social and employee mat-

ters, respect for human rights, as well as anti-corruption and bribery matters – reveals the degree to which companies make an effort to demonstrate their environmental and social responsibility.

The study benchmarks 517 German, 590 Swedish, and 150 Austrian companies, as well as 134 subsidiaries of US Global Ultimate Owners, and issues individual scorecards for them each.

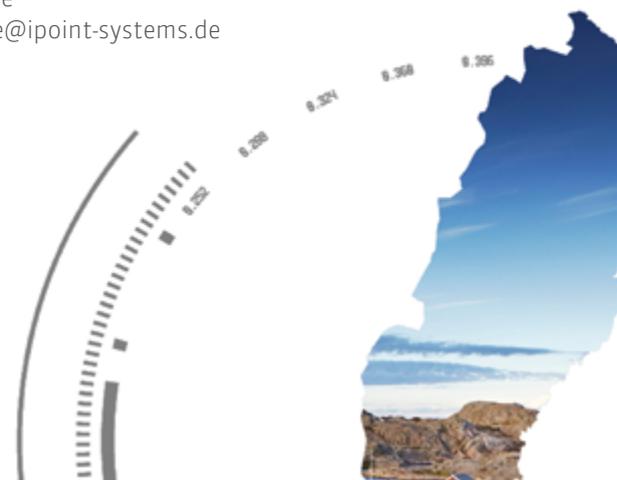
iPoint CEO Joerg Walden observes: “Behind and in front of the scenes we are witnessing substantial ESG action. But to what extent are companies willing and able to disclose their non-financial essentials also using established reporting frameworks? Everyone is asking this question, and we are in the business of offering answers.”

The reports on German, Austrian, and Swedish companies will be released on the iPoint website in early 2019. Stay tuned for updates.

Contact for this study and happy to answer your questions:

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The SDGs – Our Roadmap to a Sustainable Future

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a wonderfully simplified to-do list which covers the greatest global challenges we need to solve to ensure a prosperous, sustainable, and equitable world worth living in for future generations.

The SDGs defined

Building on the Millennium Development Goals and completing what these did not achieve, the SDGs are part of the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This ambitious plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity aims to end poverty, reduce inequalities, conserve the environment, and tackle climate change by 2030.

The SDGs, also known as "Global Goals", represent a complex agenda of 17 goals and 169 associated detailed targets. They provide a roadmap which supports organizations in navigating the major environmental, social, and economic challenges we face today.

Business benefits (bottom line)

Since business can't thrive in a world of poverty, inequality, and climate chaos, it should have a vital interest that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs are implemented successfully. At the same time, the SDGs provide business with a comprehensive framework, or lens, to translate global needs and ambitions into appropriate solutions which enable companies to better manage their risks, unlock opportunities in growth markets, anticipate consumer demands, secure access to required resources, and strengthen their value creation network – while putting the world on a sustainable, in-

clusive growth path. It is estimated that US\$12 trillion of additional business value could be unlocked by 2030 if the SDGs are successfully implemented, while generating up to 380 million new jobs (BSCD 2017). Furthermore, seeking to align their responsible investment practices with the broader sustainable objectives of society, an increasing number of global investors are looking to integrate the 17 SDGs into their portfolio analysis.

Corporate Reporting on the SDGs

Since they came into effect on January 1, 2016, more and more companies have been using the SDGs as a strategic framework, and the SDGs have now reached mainstream corporate reporting. According to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development's recently released sixth annual Reporting matters study (WBCSD 2018b), 89% of the reviewed reports acknowledge the SDGs in some way (2017: 79%), and 53% of the reports map their sustainability strategy to relevant SDGs and provide some evidence of activities (2017: 45%). The study analyzed the reports of 158 WBCSD member companies.

Business and the SDGs, another WBCSD survey of 250 companies around the globe (WBCSD 2018a), showed that business is engaged and sees the SDGs as a strategic opportunity, but that there is also room for improvement. According to the study, business is taking a strategic approach towards the SDGs, with most companies indicating that they have taken stock of this agenda and more than two-thirds noting that they see it as a critical part of their efforts to enhance their license to operate, innovate, and grow. The survey also shows that just a third have so far conducted a detailed in-depth examination of



the SDGs at target-level, while the majority of companies is still exploring how their activities align with the broader goals. According to the study, the most commonly prioritized goals are those connected strongly to private sector activity, namely SDG 13 (Climate Action, 61%), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production, 54%), and SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth, 52%).

How we can support you

Encouragingly, the SDGs are gaining momentum. A lot has happened since they were launched, but we also still have a lot of work ahead of us. iPoint is fully committed to the SDGs. We are uniquely equipped to support you anywhere along your journey to sustainability – from pre-compliance to operational sustainability –, and provide you with award-winning software solutions and services for your collection, analysis, and reporting of SDG-relevant data across the entire product life cycle and the entire value creation network.

Good Life Goals

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the Good Life Goals, a set of everyday actions for individuals around the world to help support the SDGs. The Good Life Goals initiative, launched in 2018 by the change agency Futerra and the UN 10YFP Sustainable Lifestyles and Education (SLE) Programme, breaks down each of the SDGs and provides concrete and simple steps for how people can do their part toward accomplishing the bigger, overarching goals in their day-to-day life.

As a proud signatory of the UN Global Compact, the world's largest and most widely embraced voluntary cor-

porate sustainability initiative, iPoint supports the Good Life Goals campaign by spreading its message that we all, individually and collectively, can play an important role in achieving a sustainable future.

“For the goals to be reached, everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector, civil society and people like you.”

The United Nations

– Sources

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The Verdantix report "iPoint Guides Firms On The Journey From Product Compliance To Sustainability" is currently available via the iPoint website.

Content

- 2** Editorial & Imprint
- 3** News
- 3 fw: Transparency – Save the Date!
- 3 Think Tank "Industrial Resource Strategies"
- 3 iPoint One of the Most Trustworthy Companies of 2018
- 3 iPoint's First Corporate Sustainability Report
- 4 Business Today**
- 4 Supply Chain Questionnaire App
- 5 Customized Transparency with iPCA Web
- 6 Review: iPoint Customer Events in Germany & USA
- 7 Review: Resource Efficiency Meeting 2018
- 8 CircularTree: Blockchain for Supply Chain Transparency
- 10 Trends & Industries**
- 10 The new California Proposition 65 Warning Regulations
- 11 Blockchain & Sustainable Business Models
- 12 New Study Reveals What Kept You Busy in 2018
- 13 New Report: Corporate Performance on the EU NFRD
- 14 SDGs
- 16** Verdantix Report on iPoint's Comprehensive Solutions



NEW REPORT

iPoint's Comprehensive, Integrated Solutions

 Independent research firm Verdantix has published a report titled "iPoint Guides Firms On The Journey From Product Compliance To Sustainability". Based on interviews with executives Joerg Walden (CEO), Theodor Fischer (VP Business Development), and Katie Boehme (Head of Corporate Communications & Sustainability), it focuses on iPoint's expertise in EHS and Product Compliance Information Management, the supply chain traceability and circular economy solutions driving our growth strategy, and iPoint's comprehensive product stewardship solutions for multinational firms seeking a partner to help them move up the sustainability maturity curve and establish industry leadership.

The report is part of a series on "prominent software vendors in the EHS and product stewardship software market," says author Yaowen Ma, Senior Analyst at Verdantix. "iPoint is one of the few vendors offering end-to-end solutions that include chemicals and components compliance, supply chain transparency and product sustainability," he adds. "Multinational firms will benefit the most from iPoint's solutions."

You're interested in the report? Then grab your free copy here:

 <https://bit.ly/2QQ1tvk>

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