
More efficient food supply chain

Lufthansa Industry Solutions and start-up SPRK.global cooperate for resource conservation

- Berlin-based greentech company SPRK.global aims to reduce food surpluses
- Artificial intelligence helps redistribute perfectly edible food
- IT company Lufthansa Industry Solutions supports the development of the global trading platform with AI know-how

Berlin/Norderstedt, October 5th, 2021 - Lufthansa Industry Solutions (LHIND) is supporting the Berlin-based impact start-up SPRK.global in building a global, digital trading platform for surplus food. In close cooperation with stakeholders in the supply chain, this collaboration aims to enable a need-based and rapid redistribution or processing of surplus food that is perfectly edible. The aim is to eliminate global food overproduction and waste in the supply chain. This increases efficiency, saves resources and ultimately significantly reduces climate damage.

To redistribute food surpluses, SPRK.global relies on a unique technology using artificial intelligence. This AI-powered trade and distribution platform connects participants in the supply chain and efficiently matches food supply and surplus with demand. It systematically considers commercial traders, processing plants, as well as public interest organizations as buyers.

Neural filtering enables information exchange

The experts of LHIND provide pro bono support for the further development of the AI-based platform. "The system is based on an architecture called neural collaborative filtering, where our experts merge semantic information about products with historical transactions. The system can recommend potential customers based on products or vice versa. Further plans include recommending additional ingredients based on current inventory to create complete recipes," explains Susan Wegner, Vice President Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics at LHIND.

Alexander Piutti, Founder and CEO of SPRK.global adds, "Systems integration and artificial intelligence offer us the opportunity to make the supply chain more sustainable by better matching product supply and demand, thereby reducing and avoiding surpluses in the long run. Through the platform, we connect the participants of the supply chain, creating a system that can work globally."

"As one of Germany's largest IT service companies, it is important to us to contribute to a sustainable future. We therefore particularly support projects that have set themselves the same goal," explains Jörn Messner, Managing Director of LHIND. "Artificial intelligence will

become a central tool in the prudent and targeted use of resources in the future. With SPRK.global, we are jointly demonstrating how this can work in practice. The fact that we can contribute to the success of this project with our know-how makes me proud," Messner continued.

About SPRK.global

Founded in March 2020, the startup's approach is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With its innovative technology approach, SPRK.global won first place among 2,400 international applicants worldwide in the XTC Extreme Tech Challenge (category "Smart Cities") in July 2020, the largest "Tech For Good" competition for sustainable startups. SPRK.global was nominated for the 2021 Federal Award/Digitization "Zu gut für die Tonne". The range of SPRK's customers is wide. Among them are hospitals, processing gastronomic businesses such as Esswirtschaft or non-profit organizations such as SOS Kinderdorf Berlin or Die Arche Kinderstiftung. So far, SPRK.global has been able to redistribute around 150 tons of food, which corresponds to approximately 375 tons of CO2 equivalents that were not unnecessarily produced.

About Lufthansa Industry Solutions

Lufthansa Industry Solutions is a service company for IT consulting and systems integration. The Lufthansa subsidiary supports its customers in the digital transformation of their companies. The customer base includes companies within the Lufthansa Group as well as more than 300 companies in various industries. Headquartered in Norderstedt, the company employs more than 2,100 people at several offices in Germany, Albania, Switzerland and the USA.

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