

Bringing The Nect Technology To New Territories

Interview Timo Behrmann

In the last few months, our Sales Department has expanded. We are happy about the growth and the gained expertise of our new colleagues. We have been able to add more health insurance companies with the eID function as well as others with our Nect technology for their online customer portals.

I'm Timo, 31 years old, Business Development Manager Public Sector at Nect and I'm originally from Butjadingen, a small village by the North Sea. I currently live in Hamburg.

During my semester abroad in Estonia in 2015, I saw what an enormous impact digitalization can have on society and people's everyday lives.

A few years and experiences later - among others from the German-Thai Chamber of Commerce in Bangkok, a Master's degree in Amsterdam, and national as well as Europe-wide digitization projects at Dataport,

I started as Business Development Manager Public Sector at Nect in October 2022.



What challenges does digitization pose for public administration and how can IT startups, among others, play a key role in this?

The administration plays an essential role in the organization of Germany. Everything has to work here. Whether it's a private move, a wedding, financial Corona aid, refugee flows, a company's taxes - everything needs to be managed. In the process, no mistakes are allowed to happen. With so much management, it's hard to keep up with the times and use the latest technologies. This is exactly where IT startups like Nect can help, as they have to keep up with the latest developments on a daily basis simply because of the competitive situation on the free market. The fact that we live in fast-paced times is increasingly noticeable in digitalization. Year after year, month after month, day after day, new technologies, new tools, faster software & leaner hardware emerge. In order not to let the saying of Friedrich Schiller „Who does not go with the times, goes with the times“

become reality and run behind, it requires a functioning cooperation between public & private sector, means SMEs.

Not only in Germany, but across national borders. The state cannot solve everything on its own, it needs the support of private sector solutions. The same applies to startups, they also depend on external input. You have to work together. That's what we stand for.

In which areas can Nect's solutions safely simplify processes and how can this look?

German administrative digitization is divided into 14 topics. Each of the 14 topics is controlled by a federal ministry, while individual federal states are responsible for implementation (OZG leadership).

We select topics that are relevant for identification and are strongly demanded at the German (OZG) and European level (SDG), such as marriage, advance maintenance payments, vehicle registration and re-registration, driver's licenses, parental allowance and BAFöG digital.

In other words, taking into account the respective transaction volumes and joint management, a list could look like the following.

- Mobility & travel (vehicle registration and re-registration)

- Corporate management & development (single corporate account, digital business tax, maternity leave notification)
- Cross-sectional services (identity card)
- Family & child (parental allowance digital, marriage)
- Education (BAföG digital, university admission)
- Immigration and emigration (naturalization, residence permit)

What regulatory challenges does Nect face in this regard?

There are two central levels that have to be taken into account when it comes to regulatory challenges. One is European and the other is national. Both involve essential regulations and assessments that must be met.

At European level, the eIDAS Regulation and the SDG Regulation play a central role. Nect has already received the highest possible eIDAS module endorsement for private identification procedures according to eIDAS Article 24(1) subparagraph 2(d), which confirms that automated Nect Ident procedures achieve equivalent security & reliability as a face-to-face presence and on-site verification, e.g. in a public authority - officially certified & verified.

We also need to watch how the large scale pilots of EU DI (European Digital Identity) wallets based on eIDAS 2.0 develop.

Driven by the upcoming eIDAS 2.0 regulation, by 2024, every EU country has to provide its citizens with a central wallet. We are also positioning ourselves in this regard, keeping a close eye on what is happening and exchanging information with stakeholders.

According to the SDG regulation from 2018 (Single Digital Gateway), it is the goal to enable citizen and businesses to access public administration information and online services of EU member states - not only national, but cross-border.

Annex 2 of the document lists 21 key procedures that must be digitized by all EU member states by the end of 2023 (e.g., relocation, residency, study).

At the national level, there are three key issues to be addressed:

First, the Online Access Act, OZG, which officially had to be terminated at the end of 2022, but cannot be met, so there is an extension, „OZG 2.0.“

Secondly, an „OZG booster“ follows: It contains 35 prioritized OZG services, which needed to be digitized by the end of 2022. Since this milestone was not reached by the German government, Nect comes in. We approach the most relevant federal ministries, topic area leaders (federal states) and implementation managers (IT service providers). These include marriage, motor vehicle registration and re-registration.

Thirdly, the EfA principle (one for all) means that a federal state or an alliance consisting of several states develops and operates a service centrally so that it can be made available to the other states.

Functioning examples of such a principle are the registration of a change of address, the application for study financing (BAföG) or submission of an income tax declaration.

What is the approach to using Nect to shape the public sector?

Nect can significantly assist in the digitization of the state and play a supporting role in electronic identifications, authentications, signatures (QES), and digital identity reuse. To achieve this, we proceed as follows:

We constantly analyze German public online services that are prioritized, e.g. from the „OZG Booster“ (list of 35 prioritized administrative services) and combine this with knowledge from official, governmental platforms. In addition, we compare these German services with the 21 key procedures from the European SDG Regulation. All of them have to be digitized by the end of 2023 - within each and every European country. ■