

## Press Release

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### Apleona

Oliver Stumm  
Head of Corporate Communications

Phone +49 152 0924 6565  
oliver.stumm@apleona.com  
www.apleona.com

An der Gehespitz 50  
63263 Neu-Isenburg  
Germany

## Stake in Green Tech Company Recognizer: Market Leader Apleona Invests in AI Technology to Reduce Energy Usage and CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

- **“Energy savings of 20% to 30% are quick and easy to implement comprehensively in existing buildings with short payback periods”**
- **“Important building block on the path to digital leadership”**

Germany’s and Europe’s leading real-estate service provider Apleona is investing in a self-learning technology based on artificial intelligence (AI) in the field of energy and CO<sub>2</sub> optimization. The company, which specializes in integrated facility and real-estate management, has therefore acquired an interest in Bonn-based green tech company Recognizer.

Recognizer uses its “energyControl” AI system to create digital twins of buildings and their technical facilities, enabling fully automated predictive control of heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology in real time, all while predicting and taking into account the environmental conditions and usage parameters of each building. This achieves average energy savings of 20% to 30% and a comparatively large reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> depending on the energy supply situation. At the same time, this smart system ensures a comfortable and ideal room climate for the user; one that is not affected by short-term changes in weather, the way the building is used or how much time the user spends there.

Up to 75% of energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in commercial property is caused by heating and cooling<sup>1</sup>). Apleona CEO Dr. Jochen Keysberg: “Thanks to innovative Recognizer technology, we can now offer our industrial and real estate customers significant energy and CO<sub>2</sub> optimizations for their existing buildings, which are comparatively quick and easy to implement with short payback periods.”

### **An investment that will pay off within the first year of operation**

According to Dr. Keysberg, previous projects show that Recognizer technology is sophisticated and that the necessary investments pay off within the first year of operation due to the energy savings achieved. “This is before the positive effects of CO<sub>2</sub> reductions on the sustainability of existing buildings are even taken into account.”

### **“Important building block on the path to digital leadership”**

As part of its digital transformation, Apleona is also relying on a technology partnership with IBM and developing digital applications for using and managing properties at the IBM Watson IoT Center in Munich. Dr. Keysberg says that the investment in Recognizer is another important building block for the digital development of Apleona’s business model and portfolio of services. “With Recognizer technology, Apleona is the first in the industry to use artificial intelligence comprehensively and in a way that is quickly scalable – major progress for digital energy management in existing buildings,” explains Dr. Keysberg.

“We are now able to work together with our customers to help significantly increase the energy efficiency of real estate.”

Carsten Kreutze, founder of Recognizer, says, “We are delighted to have gained a strategic partner in Apleona that is committed to advancing the topic of digitalization in the real estate industry. Our vision is for smart and climate-friendly buildings that use artificial intelligence to save energy automatically. Together with Apleona, we are combining our strengths to make our pioneering retrofit solution available to a broader market.”

Recognizer has already won multiple awards, one of which it recently shared with retailer Breuninger, which successfully uses energyControl in its retail properties. With effect from January 1, 2020, Apleona acquired 40.7% of Recognizer; the majority of the other company shares remains with the founders and a smaller percentage with another group of investors.

*Image 1: Carsten Kreutze, Managing Director Recognizer, Dr. Jochen Keysberg, CEO Apleona © Apleona  
Image 2: Recognizer Headquarter in Bonn © Recognizer*

<sup>1)</sup> According to the Gebäudereport\* by dena (Deutsche Energie-Agentur), more than 75% of final energy consumption in non-residential buildings in Germany is caused by space heating and cooling. According to the energy efficiency report\*\* of the Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie (BMWi), the building-relevant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions add up to a total of 208 megatonnes. The share of space heating and air conditioning amounted to over 70%.

\*Deutsche Energie-Agentur GmbH (dena) (Hrsg.): dena-GEBÄUDEREPORT KOMPAKT 2019, Statistiken und Analysen zur Energieeffizienz im Gebäudebestand, Oktober 2019, Page 19.

\*\*Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie (BMWi) (Hrsg.): Energieeffizienz in Zahlen. Entwicklungen und Trends in Deutschland 2019, August 2019, Page 60.

## **About Recognizer**

Recognizer is a pioneer in self-learning building solutions. Artificial intelligence boosts the energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings in the long term. With energyControl, the specialist in intelligent energy optimization is offering an innovative process that enables HVAC systems to consume 20% to 30% less energy. At the same time, this smart system ensures a fully automated and comfortable room climate. energyControl is ideal for offices, administrative buildings, retail properties, hotels and school complexes. Recognizer's headquarters are in Bonn. The company's vision is for green buildings that contribute to climate protection and consume as little energy as possible.

## **About Apleona**

Apleona is a leading European real-estate services provider based in Neu-Isenburg near Frankfurt. Approximately 20,000 employees in more than 30 countries operate, manage, expand and equip real estate in all asset classes, operate and maintain plant and assist customers in a whole host of industries with production and secondary processes. The Group's range of services extends from integrated facility management, building technology and interior fittings to real-estate management with all commercial services, letting, leasing and marketing of real estate. All services are provided on a modular basis or in an integrated package. In a regional or supra-regional account structure according to customer requirements, country-specific and service-specific operating companies ensure optimum performance and a uniformly high standard of quality across national borders. Apleona's customers include leading industrial companies, investment funds, insurance companies, banks, the public sector, developers, owners and users.