“We are creating a next generation data ecosystem for Europe with a global aspiration,” said Hubert Tardieu, Interim CEO of GAIA-X AISBL (in incorporation). Of the nearly 180 organisations of GAIA-X today, founding members and organisations which have applied to become Day 1 members, more than 150 are European organisations and companies, representing a variety of 15 European countries. Today, some 4,000 participants from EU Member States and around the world joined Peter Altmaier, German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Bruno Le Maire, French Minister of Economics, Finance and Recovery, and Thierry Breton, EU Commissioner for Internal Market and Services, in a virtual conference to celebrate the growth of the project. Together, they discussed the role of the European data ecosystem GAIA-X as a driver for innovation and business models in Europe, and looked at the road ahead.

Minister Le Maire stressed: „Within a few months, GAIA-X has developed into a new European data ecosystem. This Franco-German initiative is now growing with the participation of more EU Member States and companies, and the creation of seven national GAIA-X hubs. This strong momentum will support the creation of sovereign cloud services and the launch of an important project of common European interest.” Minister Altmaier further highlighted the progress already made: „The aim of GAIA-X is to create a data ecosystem in Europe that will generate innovations and new data-driven services and applications. Thanks to the commitment of the numerous stakeholders, we are now a good deal closer to this goal. I am particularly pleased the initial GAIA-X Hubs have been established all over Europe and that several more will follow. GAIA-X has now become a true European project”. Paola Pisano, Italian Minister for Technological Innovation and Digitalisation said: “Italian companies and other key components of the Italian digital economy fully embrace the project and stand ready to support our efforts for GAIA-X. Data is already the defining factor of the production of the 21st century. We need an open and interoperable European digital ecosystem, where data and services can be shared in a context of trust. Our ambition is to further these objectives by joining forces with our European partners in GAIA-X.”

The first day of the GAIA-X Summit not only brought together the founding members, Day 1 members of GAIA-X AISBL (in incorporation), and as representatives from the various working groups of the project, but also policy makers and representatives from business and science, who met in various rounds and discussed the latest developments at GAIA-X. The second day of the conference will be attended by Hillary Hunter from IBM Cloud, Caspar Klynge, from Microsoft, Max Peterson from Amazon Web Services, Dr. Wieland Hofelder from Google, Michel Paulin from OVHcloud and Dr. Maximilian Ahrens from T-Systems International GmbH, among others.

„The GAIA-X Summit marks an important milestone. Together, we are celebrating the immense growth of the GAIA-X community, the amazing progress in the realisation of the GAIA-X ecosystem and the progressing founding process of GAIA-X AISBL (in incorporation). We share the economic visions of a world with GAIA-X, look at the value proposition of GAIA-X from the users’ perspective and discuss the policies and structure of GAIA-X with cloud service providers,” said Hubert Tardieu.

The press release and other documents about GAIA-X, such as a fact sheet, can be found here.

You can still register for the second day of the pan-European GAIA-X Summit here.