

## **Access to knowledge at ICOMP: SuMa-eV becomes full member**

**The non-profit Association for Free Access to Knowledge fights for more competition in online search.**

Following a successful and close working relationship over the last 6 months, the association SuMa-eV has decided to become a full member of ICOMP, the Initiative for a Competitive Online Marketplace. SuMa-eV – which derives from the abbreviation of the German word for "search engine", *Suchmaschine* – supports a decentralised internet search landscape which fosters competition and ensures free access to knowledge. "Free access to knowledge and its use, whether on a cost-free or on a paid-for basis, is the foundation of our modern society," says Dr. Wolfgang Sander-Beuermann, chairperson of SuMa-eV. SuMa-eV bundles technical expertise in the field of search to meet the organisation's goals. For example, Chairman Wolfgang Sander-Beuermann is the developer of the metasearch engine <http://www.metager.de>. The prominent patron of the association is the inventor of MP3, Professor Karlheinz Brandenburg. SuMa-eV organises an annual search engine congress at which the "SuMa Awards" are given. Through this award SuMa seeks to raise public awareness and focus attention on search engines' role in providing access to online information.

SuMa-eV considers the goals of ICOMP to be essential for the digital world. "The current choice of only a few search engines poses a danger to the information society," warns Sander-Beuermann. "For this reason we stand behind ICOMP's goals and see our entry to ICOMP as a logical consequence in our fight for access to knowledge on the Internet."

David Wood, legal counsel to ICOMP, views SuMa-eV's membership of ICOMP as a significant step for the German market: "The current political debate shows that questions of market dominance, transparency and security on the Internet are becoming increasingly exigent. At the centre of this is the search engine market. Through SuMa-eV, we have won a member from whose expertise we can directly profit."

With over 40 member companies and organisations worldwide – among them the English Premier League, the Centre of the Picture Industry (CEPIC) and software company Microsoft – ICOMP is a forum for companies and organisations that supports and promotes free and transparent competition on the Internet. In support of these goals, ICOMP organises conferences and discussion roundtables, initiates relevant research projects and raises awareness for the issue among decision makers and the general public.



Further information:

SuMa-eV <http://suma-ev.de/>

SuMa Awards <http://suma-awards.de/>

ICOMP <http://www.i-comp.org/>

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