



## AI-Based Exchange Platform for the Automotive Industry Helps Stabilize Disrupted Supply Chains

Passau, February 24, 2023 – Supply chain disruptions have become emblematic of our time, halting the global flow of goods and production processes. Many industries, automotive manufacturing for example, are being severely disrupted by the aftermath of the pandemic, geopolitical crises, and trade restrictions. One Data, the German AI specialist, has developed a solution to show companies they are not powerless in the face of these problems. Their platform “Wavetrade” enables the purchase, sale, and exchange of critical components, such as semiconductors and chips. The solution has been adopted by leading companies like HARMAN Automotive, and the first weeks since the platform’s December 2022 launch have demonstrated that its approach to supply chain resiliency is gaining traction, with successful matches and trades already being made. The platform employs data analytics and AI with an emphasis on sustainability.

Automotive supply chains have long been regarded as stable, with a vast network of hundreds of supplier companies working in tandem to bring the final product to retailers. The pandemic and the resulting „chip crisis“ have led to significant issues: specific semiconductors were either not produced in adequate quantities or disrupted shipping created transportation bottleneck. This made it difficult for the automotive industry to acquire the necessary chips. While this chip crisis has been partially resolved, supply chains remain inherently fragile. Potential trade restrictions in this sector suggest that new problems could arise at any moment.

### Reducing uneven distribution

Many companies feel powerless in the face of supply chain disruptions. However, Dr. Stefan Roskos, Managing Director at Passau-based AI specialist One Data, suggests otherwise, stating that supply disruptions often stem from a lack of information. Companies are often uncertain whether the required chips are still available. Additionally, parts shortages are not just due to production capacity, but also arise from uneven chip distribution, with some companies holding too many in stock while others have too few. However, Roskos explains that data and artificial intelligence can address this situation. One Data has developed a highly effective virtual trading and exchange platform to facilitate this.

HARMAN Automotive, a leading supplier for networked infotainment systems in cars, is among the first to successfully adopt the One Data platform. HARMAN’s extensive experience in this high-tech sector involving large quantities of chips that meet the highest quality standards, requiring timely and reliable delivery, makes it an ideal partner for the platform. HARMAN recognizes the value of collaboration in these difficult times and has established task forces to engage with semiconductor manufacturers to increase supply, and to call on CEOs to initiate bilateral component swaps. Thomas Frei, the Vice President of Sales, Inventory and Operations Planning at HARMAN Automotive, acknowledges that these efforts involve significant manual effort, prompting HARMAN to seek out One Data’s data-based platform community as a more efficient, comprehensive, and secure solution for such exchanges.

## **Security for all involved**

The solution, called „Wavetrade,“ allows company managers to publish the critical parts they need or can offer for exchange. The platform searches for excess stock in the warehouses of other companies and facilitates the sale or exchange of the needed components. The process begins with the anonymous publication of search queries and bids, disclosing contact information only when a sale or swap is imminent.

However, the platform’s operation is more complex than it appears, as chip names may differ across companies. To address this, One Data has developed an AI system that analyzes associated data sheets to identify the component, even if the name is slightly different. The platform also displays almost-matching components, but experts within the involved companies decide whether to use these alternatives in production.

The question of why companies have excess components in stock remains. According to Roskos, some companies were unable to maintain their production schedules due to the pandemic, resulting in an overstock of components. However, Wavetrade offers a solution by allowing companies to specify a time window for when they will need the dispensed quantity of components back from the buyer. The platform, which launched in December 2022, has already seen successful matches and trades, and has received approval from the Cartel Office.

## **Sustainability in focus**

The fact that this solution enhances the sustainability of goods is also noteworthy. Semiconductors have a shelf life and cannot be stored indefinitely, making Wavetrade’s ability to avoid their potential disposal significant. What’s more, increasing cooperation between reputable companies ensures that they assist each other in obtaining high-quality chips from secure sources. „Overall, we are confident that we have created an effective tool with this solution that can help mitigate supply chain issues,“ concludes Roskos. „As more companies participate, the effectiveness will only increase. The finished solution is readily available to all automotive companies.“

**For more information on Wavetrade click [here](#).**

## About One Data

**One Data GmbH** is a fast-growing software company from Germany and a leader in the use of applied artificial intelligence (AI). Since the company was founded by Dr. Andreas Böhm in 2013, the AI specialist – which has 300 employees across sites in Passau, Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin – has been developing better, faster IT systems for its customers: **One Data** enables data experts at companies to create the ideal data products for their business users. With the combination of the One Data Cartography software solution and a highly experienced team of data and software specialists, data experts can collaborate across different data silos in a fast, automated and quality-assured way. In addition, technical support is provided for modern data management concepts such as data mesh and data fabric. The result: more stable supply chains, better forecasts, faster R&D processes and more efficient data teams.

Global IT research and consulting companies have listed One Data as a representative vendor in their **market analyses** already.

More information is available at [www.onedata.de](http://www.onedata.de).

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