

## CISPA StartUpSecure Program: Two Funding Phases

---

CISPA start-up incubator provides support to transform innovative concepts in IT security, Trustworthy AI, and machine learning into market-ready solutions, as part of the StartUpSecure program initiated by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research.

---

### StartUpSecure Phase I: Development Phase

#### Target Participants:

- PhDs/Researchers from CISPA and/or researchers from any institute with valid German residence permit; Master's Students from UdS

#### Key Benefits:

- **Funding up to €800,000** (Pre-seed stage); 12-18 month project period
- Employment at CISPA with access to all resources
- Technical feasibility testing and proof of concept development
- Business plan and commercialization strategy creation

#### Application Process:

- Technical Whitepaper >> Evaluation >> Incubation Agreement >> Grant application

**Goal:** Establish a company/startup

---

### StartUpSecure Phase II: Founding Phase

#### Target Participants:

- Startups founded through Phase I
- External startups (founded within 3 years) across Germany

#### Key Benefits:

- **Funding up to €800,000** (Seed stage); 12-18 month support period
- Prototype development for pilot customers
- Market entry/sales strategy building
- Opportunities to pitch to VCs

#### Application Process:

- Company must be already founded >> Technical due diligence >> Evaluation by the Startups and Entrepreneurship team >> Incubation Agreement >> Grant application

**Goal:** Market-ready prototype and customer acquisition

---

**Basic Requirements.** Your project or startup must be:

- **Innovative** - Aligns with the BMBF "Digital Sicher Souverän" framework
  - **Problem-focused** - Addresses real challenges in IT security, Trustworthy AI, or ML
  - **Business-viable** - Demonstrates scalability and market potential
- 

**Get Started.** *Transform your innovative ideas into market success with CISPA StartUpSecure*

**Contact us:** [schwager@cispa.de](mailto:schwager@cispa.de), [chechelev@cispa.de](mailto:chechelev@cispa.de)