

## **Transkription Podcast Siemensstadt Calling #13 mit Franziska Giffey**

### **Teaser**

Berlin in the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region is intended to become the number one innovation location in Europe.

### **[00:00:02.940] - Sarah Tietze**

Hello from Berlin and welcome to Siemensstadt Calling, the future-podcast. A completely new city quarter is being created in Siemensstadt Square and with it a million square meters of Berlin's future. The development of our future location is primarily about rethinking the city and creating an urban system with sustainable solutions. In our podcast, I discuss with many clever minds how we can achieve this.

I'm Sarah Tietze, part of the Siemens team. Here I talk to innovative urban designers and capture exciting ideas that will prepare our cities for the future. Solving the climate issue is at the top of Siemensstadt Square's agenda. The latter lies also with Franziska Giffey, Berlin's Senator for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises. She sees the transformation of Berlin's economy towards climate neutrality as the biggest task in her office. And she has decided to support the Berlin economy on the way there. In our podcast today we're discussing what that looks like, what it's specifically in the planning and what an innovative location like Siemensstadt can contribute to make Berlin more livable, competitive and energy efficient. Thank you very much, Ms. Giffey, for inviting me to your office in the beautiful "Rote Rathaus", Berlin's town hall - it's great that you're taking part.

### **[00:01:18.340] - Franziska Giffey**

My pleasure.

### **[00:01:19.610] - Sarah Tietze**

Stefan Kögl is also part of our podcast. He leads the project at Siemens. Hello Stefan.

### **[00:01:26.200] - Stefan Kögl**

Hello. Ms. Giffey. Hello Sarah.

### **[00:01:28.690] - Sarah Tietze**

In order to warm up a bit today, we have brought along quick questions, sentence starters, which I always give to you both in alternation and I am happy to receive spontaneous and perhaps a few slightly personal answers.

We start with you, Ms. Giffey: If I could ask Berlin companies one thing, it would be...?

### **[00:01:52.890] - Franziska Giffey**

...That we continue to work together as well as before. And especially that every company takes another look at its roof and sees whether they could perhaps contribute to our SolarCity Berlin

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master plan, because we have enough roofs, and I know that there are many companies where solar is very important would do well.

### **[00:02:14.160] - Sarah Tietze**

A clear appeal. Stefan, to you: What motivates me most about my work as the designer of a future site...

### **[00:02:23.310] - Stefan Kögl**

...Yes, that means designing something that isn't there yet and doesn't exist as a blueprint. That means something new happens every day, you learn something every day and a certain curiosity is always satisfied and that's the beauty of it.

### **[00:02:40.420] - Sarah Tietze**

Ms. Giffey, my favorite project to promote climate neutrality in Berlin...

### **[00:02:45.000] - Franziska Giffey**

...I can name the biggest project. It goes by the nice title "We bring the heat home." What's behind it? On May 3rd, we brought the Berlin district heating network with all the associated power plants and assets back to the state. We bought the heat back and now we're in the lead of the big task of actually getting our new energy and heat state company, the Berliner Energie und Wärme BEW, on the path to climate neutrality. Because this is still a fact: over 90% of our energy comes from fossil raw materials and of course we have to really have to change that. This is the biggest climate policy decision of the decade and as a result also one of my most important core projects.

### **[00:03:28.120] - Sarah Tietze**

Stefan, your biggest challenge in the Siemensstadt Square project...

### **[00:03:32.940] - Stefan Kögl**

...I think, it is usually the case with such large projects that on the one hand, you have a wide range of specialist disciplines. Or rather: with all the disciplines. We are not only concerned with buildings and sites, i.e. real estate issues, but also with technologies, especially as Siemens employees, and with finding the right companies, creating jobs, finding out which companies are attractive and match the location. These are economic questions that also affect Berlin. And that is a challenge. To understand the bandwidth and to deal with it. And then, secondly, there is simultaneity. Of course, you can do a project like this bit by bit and you start with the building law and then you make a few plans and so on, but then it takes 50 years or more. That means you have to push a lot of things in parallel, including the infrastructure and energy supply. We are talking about the attraction and relocation of enterprises and universities. We are developing digital solutions and are now also starting to build in concrete terms. And this simultaneity is a huge challenge, especially for the team.

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**[00:04:43.120] - Sarah Tietze**

You can probably understand it well. There is a lot of simultaneity in Berlin...

**[00:04:47.470] - Franziska Giffey**

That's true, yes...

**[00:04:49.450] - Sarah Tietze**

A climate-neutral Berlin can only be achieved...

**[00:04:53.440] - Franziska Giffey**

...If everyone works together. And it is also clear that this is a task for all of us, on a small and large scale, in the district, in the state, in the federal government, but also in our Berlin economy and in our everyday lives. You also have to realize that not everything will happen overnight, but we have really good conditions to launch innovations here that can do exactly that. And we would like to work together with business, with state governments, with the districts, with a wide variety of actors from the two-society system to ensure that this succeeds.

**[00:05:29.240] - Sarah Tietze**

Stefan, your favorite project in Berlin to promote climate neutrality?

**[00:05:33.810] - Stefan Kögl**

In Berlin it is of course the Siemensstadt Square.

**[00:05:36.700] - Sarah Tietze**

And within Siemensstadt?

**[00:05:39.340] - Stefan Kögl**

Within Siemensstadt, perhaps it is... What is always moving are our bees. We have several bees and also a beekeeper who looks after them. And the pollen is evaluated - in the nano range using digital technology - to determine which flora, but especially fauna, is present in the area. And we started doing this in 2019 and this industrial area and the surrounding area had a very, very high level of diversity, which is positive. But of course, we are now checking it over the years and seeing how it changes. You will see how things will change, especially in five or rather ten years, when the buildings are built, or new buildings are built and so on. And I find that extremely fascinating. It's not the first thing that comes to mind. You learn a lot in a project like this, when a clever person comes along and says: "Oh, there's something here." And that's of course fascinating.

**[00:06:35.480] - Franziska Giffey**

Incidentally, you can also experience this every year at the "Long Day of Urban Nature". We also support this in the state of Berlin because it really is amazing how much nature can be found in Berlin, how many animals live here, how great the biodiversity is. When this can be combined with

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innovation and industrial development, commercial development, you should always ask yourself: "How can we actually combine all these projects with urban nature?" It's not always possible. For instance, we have a few settlements of natterjack toads and their equals, which sometimes make it difficult to go ahead with residential and commercial development. Our task is to identify, where it can be done and how we can preserve biodiversity and at the same time promote social development and economic development in the city. That is super important and, in this context, Siemensstadt is simply a prime example for me.

### **[00:07:22.470] - Sarah Tietze**

Good to hear. I'm also interested in the private Ms Giffey, she certainly contributes a lot to climate protection. Is there anything you are particularly proud of?

### **[00:07:32.530] - Franziska Giffey**

Well, I am a passionate gardener myself. I really enjoy being in the garden. I don't have a garden myself, but my parents do. Whenever I'm outside, I join in. Of course, I have a balcony where I try to make a contribution. And of course: How do you behave when it comes to mobility? I use Berlin's public transport system BVG. I think we have a great offer here, which is unique in Europe. We travel around the world nine times a day with our Berlin BVG. Many people don't even know this, but there is so much on offer. And I believe, that if you already have a company car - which is unavoidable in your job - then it should be electric and mine is electric. So, we are CO<sub>2</sub> neutral, when it comes to our company car.

### **[00:08:18.420] - Sarah Tietze**

Stefan, is there anything you've always wanted to know from Ms. Giffey?

### **[00:08:23.510] - Stefan Kögl**

You have been with us on this project for a long time and have already provided a great deal of support. And in your current role, of course, I sometimes wonder how you manage to steer everything in such a way that you can say, "Yes, okay, it's really getting through," given the - you could say - tight budget situation and yet challenging situation in Berlin, including the various crises we've had. Everyone needs something, wants something from you...

### **[00:08:54.260] - Franziska Giffey**

I think it's always the same - in the end there's never enough money. You just have to look at how to prioritize well and how to get things done together with partners. And I think that cooperation with industry - especially in the development of major projects with several partners who can contribute - is where the great opportunity lies. And for me, what is happening in Siemensstadt is also supported by many players. If everyone makes their contribution, then it will become something bigger. And if there is a strong political will, the innovation to drive this development forward, then you can achieve more than if everyone just does something for themselves. So, in the end, the key

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for me lies in working together, in cooperation, in the will to break new ground, in how you can achieve a great deal with a certain flexibility, even with increasingly scarce resources. And I am always happy about every cooperation, every exchange that we have with our private partners, with our investors here in the city. With Berlin Partner, we have a business development agency that is extremely important to us, where we employ over 200 people every year with state funding to support our businesses and attract investors to the city, to facilitate relocations and create new jobs. Last year, we were able to create over 26,000 new jobs in the city by attracting new companies or expanding existing ones. And that is super important. And if you can do that, then new talent will also be attracted, because of course the attractiveness of the city as a whole will increase. And that gives me a lot of courage and strength. The bottom line being: Cooperation is key.

### **[00:10:42.960] - Sarah Tietze**

Those were very spontaneous and great answers. Thank you so far. Now I'd like to take you both with me and I'll beam you to Spandau, or Siemensstadt to be precise. When our podcast comes out, it will be a few days after our foundation stone ceremony. The foundation stone for the first new-build module in our future location. Ms. Giffey, you've been involved in the project for a long time. When you now hear, "It's starting now, the new building is starting." How does that make you feel?

### **[00:11:12.370] - Franziska Giffey**

Well, first of all I'm happy - and I have the impulse: Finally. Because of course, the plans have been out there for a while. It was always impressive for me when I saw the digital twins that you made. Where you can already see what it will be like in the future. Also, this idea of building the city of the future and enabling people to take a look through the keyhole of the future by allowing them to see: What will it be like? How will we live? How will we work? How will we be mobile when travelling? How will we create places in which new solutions for the smart city are developed in real-world laboratories? It's super exciting and I'm delighted that things are finally getting underway and that we have - it has to be said - always made it very clear, even through various changes of government, that what is happening at Siemensstadt is a top priority for the state government. There is special support there and we are also working together with the district and the various Senate administrations to ensure that we can clarify any unanswered questions.

### **[00:12:17.430] - Sarah Tietze**

Stefan, the first new building module we are talking about, in the large area, a total of 76 hectares. What exactly is being built in the first step?

### **[00:12:28.910] - Stefan Kögl**

The first new buildings... let me start differently: The areal is located on Rohrdamm, the street that leads from north to south. And that's where the new entrance to the area will be in the future, the "Entrée", as we call it. A public square is created there. The S-Bahn, the Siemens railway, will be reopened there - according to current plans in 2029 – we will also create a place of encounter. It will

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be a very attractive place. Also, we will become a sponge city. There will be new modules in terms of green spaces, infiltration areas and so on. It's beautifully designed so that you can feel at home there. And I would say that the whole thing is framed by two - or actually three new buildings - but two large office buildings. One is the new Siemens branch in Berlin. A very nice building with photovoltaics, with green façades, with a large atrium in the centre, also open on the ground floor for external co-working spaces and elements like that. And the second is a high-rise building, 60 metres high. Siemens Mobility and its CEO will be based there, as well as Cedric Neike, our CEO, here in Berlin. And there will also be public use on the ground floor. Shops, a bit of catering. And the building also has a conference zone, so there will be a lot of public access. And you can also go up to the roof. So it's public, that's how it's laid down in Berlin, in the high-rise plan, and it will be the same here, for everyone. And not to forget the third building, which will be the first to be completed in 2025, a pavilion, as we say, that will provide all the information for the public, where everyone can see: 'What does it look like here? What's next?' Also: 'What is Siemens doing here? What technologies are we using? And where does the project stand?'

### **[00:14:30.110] - Franziska Giffey**

I think it's super important to take the public along with you. Because many people... when we always say that everything will change and talk about transformation, that doesn't trigger feelings of joy in everyone. Many say: 'Gosh, why can't things just stay the way they are?' Many people are also worried about change. And to say: 'Yes, things will change.' Work will change, the way we do business will change. But that doesn't mean that we have to think of the future as a declaration of renunciation, but rather as a huge opportunity for new developments, new work, new better forms of living together and also of living and working together. You have to realise that the Siemens railway, when it reopens in 2029, will be a huge quantum leap for the connection of this entire district to the overall network. Flats for over 30,000 people are currently being built in Spandau. That means that this development there, this economic development, this transport development, will also have many positive effects on the entire urban area. And that is a positive narrative, which also means that growth, prosperity and development have an effect on the quality of living of our city. We certainly can use concrete examples to convey this in a credible way. That's why it's really important that there are places where people can get information and say: 'Look, this is what's going to happen here. You can be part of it. You have the chance to experience it now. That's great.'

### **[00:16:00.740] - Sarah Tietze**

Absolutely. You just said that the time has finally come - I can really understand that. I think the neighborhood feels the same way. They're looking forward to it finally starting. When will the time really come? When will you no longer come across a construction fence, but a piece of new Berlin? When will I be able to use the water feature? When will I be able to go to the public roof terrace? When will the square have added value for me as a neighbor?

### **[00:16:24.600] - Stefan Kögl**

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So, we will move into the branch in autumn 2026 and the high-rise building will be ready in spring 2027 and then the entrance situation and the square will also be usable for the public. Things have already got going. We have the laying of the foundation stone, but you can't always see it through the fence, but there is a huge amount of activity. And I have to say, even though I've been supervising projects like this for years, I'm always a bit positively surprised myself. You plan and plan and plan and then excavators and cranes and construction workers really do arrive and get to work. It's always a fascinating moment.

### **[00:17:03.160] - Sarah Tietze**

That means that from the foundation stone onwards, things move really quickly. Before that, it took us four and a half years to get there. We signed the MOU with the city together in 2018. You, Mrs Giffey, have also accompanied and supported a lot of things along the way. What has to happen, Stefan, to turn a piece of industrial land into a public city?

### **[00:17:25.610] - Stefan Kögl**

Yes, well, the special thing is that we have an industrial production area here with a fence around it. And there are four plants, three from Siemens and one from Siemens Energy, which is its own group. And they are spread out in very old buildings, some of which are over 100 years old, listed buildings, operating very inefficient. And that was actually also the origin of this project or why this location was considered in the first place: 'How can these jobs be secured for the future?' And it was clear that investment was needed. And the investments are flowing into partially empty production halls, into which the production, the plants are now being optimised, i.e. relocated. They will be concentrated at two hubs on the site, which also frees up a lot of space. They will be moved into buildings, but partly simply vacant areas where logistics and so on used to be located. And the remodeling measures have already been underway for a year and a half. Nobody really notices or sees them. And the relocations are now starting in October, the first ones. So that alone is a mammoth task, moving the plants during ongoing operations.

And then, of course, infrastructure is a key factor. We already mentioned energy supply earlier. And I think we spent a long time thinking about how this could work. As you said, Mrs Giffey, the current energy supply will continue to be very fossil-based for some time to come. We at Siemens want to be CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral as a company worldwide from 2030. We have listed buildings here. And in cooperation with many stakeholders - I can emphasise this very, very clearly, whether it was the Senate or the district. But also, Berlin's water company, the Berliner Wasserbetriebe, and others played a major role - we have established that Nonnendammallee is a large sewer. And you can tap into it. I also learnt a lot there, again: the water is diverted via a meander...

### **[00:19:22.060] - Franziska Giffey**

To use the wastewater heat, right?

### **[00:19:23.770] - Stefan Kögl**

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Exactly, to utilise wastewater heat. And I think this will cover 80% of our heating requirements. But you can also use it for cooling, in the other direction.

### **[00:19:33.000] - Franziska Giffey**

That's actually a really great thing. I didn't know that either, but we have a model project here at the 'Haus der Statistik' ('House of Statistics') on Alexanderplatz and the wastewater always has a constant temperature of between 10 and 12 degrees, regardless of whether it's winter or summer. And you can use that. Then they have a basic temperature. And these are basically mats filled with clean water, which are made of metal and lie in the wastewater. And this heats up the water in the chambers of these mats as the wastewater flows over them. And that can then be utilised. And that's a great technology. It's quite complex to convert a sewer in this way. But once it's done, you always have a reliable source of heat, regardless of whether it's winter or summer.

### **[00:20:19.220] - Stefan Kögl**

Exactly. The foundations have been laid, I would say. There are many, many contracts to be concluded, because the water always has to flow. People always say that you have to guarantee that there's always water in there, because it has to work. And where to locate the heat pumps or the air heat pumps, which are also needed to ensure the merging or to increase the energy? It is one of the foundations and we are building our own local heating and cooling network here and, as I said, we can cover a large part of the energy with it. And perhaps... What we said earlier, how can Berlin become CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral or climate-neutral? That's just what you said... We now have a single issue, but so do many others. You have to think in a networked way and think together. And I think the city also needs to know where the energy is generated... And, for example, if we have too much, we would also give it away. But it's very much limited by fragmentation, by contractual situations... And these are also ways over which you can move and dissolve a relatively large amount without technology - if you network it.

### **[00:21:25.610] - Franziska Giffey**

It is absolutely clear to us that the energy mix of the future really is a genuine mix. It's about solar, it's also partly about wind energy, which we use from Brandenburg, for example. We may also use our own plants, but that is of course limited in Berlin. It's about issues such as wastewater heat, it's about the many data centres we have in the city, which produce an incredible amount of heat. It's about geothermal energy, it's about hydrogen. And there are many new technologies that are still in their infancy, but which are extremely relevant for us when it comes to the question: 'How can we replace coal and gas with green energies, renewable energies in the future?' And the possibility that, if we look at our economy, but also our buildings, our transport and the question of how we generate heat and energy in general, we can reorganise ourselves. That is a huge task. Ultimately, it's comparable to the industrial revolution we're talking about here. And if we want to make more out of electricity, this naturally means that the capacity of our entire Berlin electricity grid must be expanded. We know that we need to double the capacity of our electricity grid over the next ten



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years. Double it. That's a huge task for a metropolis of almost 4 million people. And we have now also provided our Berlin electricity grid with additional equity so that it can leverage these investments and do this so that the charging infrastructure and all the other aspects of electricity grid capacity can also feed in renewable electricity to make it work.

### **[00:23:05.290] - Sarah Tietze**

And then there is also the timing. There is a clear deadline: 2045. Of course, 20 years isn't that much time for such a huge city. Do you see that realistically? Is that too ambitious or can you do it?

### **[00:23:21.280] - Franziska Giffey**

I believe that if we join forces and work on this in a very structured way, it is possible. What was not possible, and we have always made this clear, is the desire to have everything climate-neutral by 2030. We still have six years, you could say, not even quite that long. We can achieve interim targets, but we simply need a certain amount of time for all these changes. Let me illustrate this for the solar sector: we have set ourselves the target of generating a quarter of Berlin's electricity from solar by 2035 - that is our state's solar strategy. And we are currently at around 5 to 6% of the electricity in Berlin that is generated from solar. If we now have ten years to achieve this, you can work out how many percentage points we need to increase each year to achieve this. If you do the maths, you know how much you have to achieve per year. And then you have to do everything you can to make it happen. And last year we put a lot of energy into achieving this and have seen an unprecedented increase in solar installations. Berlin was the leader in solar expansion. We were able to install over 10,000 new systems in one year. We are now at over 20,000 new systems and this year we are really stepping up the percentage points with a very large project. We are going to equip the roof of Berlin's Exhibition Centre with solar panels. That's 50,000 square metres that will be covered with solar. That's quite a lot. And of course that will take us a lot further. And when I see that large companies are of course also discovering the solar topic for themselves on their large logistics centres and warehouses and that we can also promote this with our 'Solar+' program here in the city, then we can already see that we can make significant progress. But it has to be said quite clearly: we have an objective, a specific timeframe, we make a little progress every year and also set incentives, we have a funding program for business-oriented electromobility, we have a funding program 'Efficient Buildings+' - which of course also addresses the issue of increasing building efficiency. And with our solar funding program 'Solar+', we can of course also provide a lot of additional impetus because there is public funding and support for this.

### **[00:25:37.900] - Sarah Tietze**

Yes. When you started as a senator, a special fund was actually supposed to become available. It should be worth billions. How bad is it that it broke away? How do you substitute that? What solutions or approaches are there?

### **[00:25:52.470] - Franziska Giffey**

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We had the idea of a special fund to make all these investments. At federal level, the Federal Constitutional Court ruled that this was problematic in terms of the constitution, because it would contradict the principle of annuality of the budget if investments were planned over several years. We then examined what this judgement means for the state at federal level. And then it became clear that we could not create the kind of special fund we had originally envisaged. But that means we have to think about other ways of financing. It is always a question of whether an investment, a loan that is taken out for this purpose, complies with the debt brake. And that is why we are now endeavoring as a state government - we have resolved to launch a transformation package here instead that works with borrowing that conforms to the 'debt brake', that also gives companies low-interest loans, for example, so that they can make the necessary investments. And there is also a part of this transformation package, for example, that we have already done. Namely: we are bringing the heat home. The transaction has been completed. The funds for this have been made available. And something like equity injections for our state-owned companies is also a viable option and we will do that too. We have already done it with 'Stromnetz Berlin', the operator of the distribution grid. We can think in the same way for our 'Berliner Immobilienmanagement GmbH', for our housing companies. They are all faced with the challenge of having to invest in climate protection, in buildings, in properties and finding a way to facilitate transaction loans that comply with the 'debt brake'. This is the task we are currently facing. We have already realised some things. But if we realise that a special asset structure is not possible, we have to find other ways to make future investments possible. We have also agreed on this in the state government. Our 'Investitionsbank Berlin', Berlin's investment bank, will play a very important role here. We have to do this together with them. But it is possible to find other ways of financing without touching these special funds that still fulfil the framework conditions of the 'debt brake'. Nonetheless, I would also like to see some movement on the issue of the 'debt brake' in the federal government and for people to say: 'Yes, we have to be careful with debt. We can't just spend our way out of it, but we also have to enable future investments in infrastructure so that Germany remains competitive in the long term.'

### **[00:28:24.990] - Sarah Tietze**

This means that the whole effort is being shouldered by a broad range of people and is a joint task for Berlin and, of course, for Siemens. Stefan, Mrs Giffey also mentioned the topic of technology and our digital twin. How do you rate that? To what extent can technologies also contribute to making future cities livable, barrier-free, but also sustainable?

### **[00:28:49.400] - Stefan Kögl**

Ultimately, we often don't know what the status is in cities, what the situation actually is. So, if I just take energy consumption. We have already reached the point where, for example, the heating values have to be made transparent, including the energy sources, also for the citizens. But it wasn't so long ago that you would get a bill once a year and it would say something and then you would usually have to pay extra. Kind of opaque. And if we now take the topic of technology and digitalisation, then it is relatively easy to make things transparent today and then to be able to take

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measures, real measures. For example, we at Siemens have a centre in India, in Mumbai - GAVATAR is the name of the centre - where all of Siemens' energy consumption worldwide is brought together. It's a bit like a small... as if a spaceship was flying off somewhere, that's what it looks like with lots of screens, just as you would imagine. But in the end, they sit there and say: 'Okay, something's not working here, there's too much consumption...' So, all the data can be compared against each other, deviations are compared, because you might not have the people for it everywhere... And that's what we've started to do in Siemensstadt Square, or what the goal is... That we have a high data density. The digital twin ultimately serves to know what you have there in the first place, i.e. the inventory. It took us a year and a half to enter all the data, i.e. only from the existing buildings. Because there are countless documents for each building, from the building permit to energy values and so on. And to utilise these now and use the appropriate technology in the buildings - and of course Siemens offers a great deal in this area, whether in building technology, infrastructure or production - is ultimately an important factor and to be able to show how this can work completely at one location. And one last point: of course, technologies also need to be further developed as part of this project development. We have a lot of questions, but also topics where we see there are opportunities to develop new so-called use cases from the digital twin, from technologies that we already have at Siemens. And this is a process that will continue for several years now.

### **[00:31:03.220] - Sarah Tietze**

Are these kinds of impulses, Ms. Giffey, that come from Siemens, that come from other companies, from other innovative players in Berlin, that can advance Berlin as a location for innovation?

### **[00:31:13.840] - Franziska Giffey**

Yes, of course. In Berlin we jointly agreed on eleven 'Zukunftsorte' - places, where tomorrow's future is being created today - in our economic policy strategy, also in relation to urban development, infrastructure and mobility. And let me be clear - also with science and research - these are places where innovation, openness to technology and economic growth meet, and where we provide targeted support. Of course, Siemensstadt and what is happening there is one of these 'Zukunftsorte', one of the city's really important projects. And that's why ideas that are developed there are of course always an incentive for other places where we want to promote development. Where they may ask themselves: "What can be transferred? What can we learn? What are models that can be applied in other places?" And Siemens is simply an extremely important source of inspiration for development for Berlin as a whole and ultimately for our overarching economic policy goal: Berlin in the Berlin-Brandenburg metropolitan region is intended to become the number one innovation location in Europe. That's not an unrealistic goal either. We have a strong digital economy, we have a good industrial location, we have a good ecosystem, we have a huge research and development landscape, university institutions, research institutes. All of these are extremely good prerequisites for truly being one of the top locations. And at the moment we're having a bit of a battle with London, Paris and Barcelona - who's ahead? And we play in this league. And what is

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crucial, is that Berlin already occupies a very important position on the map of Europe when it comes to innovation and development. And of course, you get an additional boost from places like this.

### **[00:33:13.930] - Sarah Tietze**

Very, very good to hear What makes Berlin so worth living in for you, Ms. Giffey?

### **[00:33:20.050] - Franziska Giffey**

Well, it's simply the greatest city in the world - of course. What makes Berlin worth living in? I always think that there is no one Berlin, but we have twelve districts. With around 300,000 people, each district is actually a big city in itself and each of these districts has very special characteristics and you can actually find something for every taste. There is a big difference whether you live in Mitte or in Spandau. It's quite a difference. And there are different Berlins, and these different centers make it possible to find quality of life in the diversity. For me it's simple: "What defines Berlin?" Berlin is the city of freedom. Berlin has a hugely moving and eventful history, which has also shown that in the end freedom, tolerance, cosmopolitanism and diversity are our very hard, good location factors. And when I talk to young talents who come here or to companies that make a decision to locate here, they say: "Yes, your ecosystem is great and there are a lot of companies and a lot of research institutions here, but the best thing is, you can just live and love here the way you want." And this diversity is very, very important to us. And that's why, of course, everything that is connected to it is a democratic community, a social city, one city in which you can travel using a variety of means of transport, in which you have the freedom to live your own life. That's crucial for Berlin. And the city is attractive. We have a huge club culture, a cultural landscape that is unheard of in Europe. This attracts talent and we absolutely have to preserve it.

### **[00:35:20.400] - Sarah Tietze**

Ms. Giffey has just described how the individual districts are individual and all very diverse and have a special mix, the Berlin-Mix, as they often say. What is the Berlin-Mix like in Siemensstadt?

### **[00:35:33.960] - Stefan Kögl**

The Berlin-Mix is a good question, because I think it might be appropriate in this context. Of course, Siemensstadt Square will become a small district within the district (Siemensstadt), but what is crucial is that it is and will be a part of Siemensstadt and that this area will actually be given back to the city, if you will, and will be opened up. And the special thing is certainly that we have a strong mix. We don't have a commercial area and in other places a residential area and then industry, but really a strong mix, i.e. the actual five-minute city. And, I would say, planning and approving this is actually a very big challenge, which can be relatively strenuous, but which we are happy to take on.

### **[00:36:20.050] - Sarah Tietze**

Thank you for the conversation. My last question goes to you, Ms. Giffey: What are you most looking forward to in the new five-minute city Siemensstadt Square?

## **Transkription Podcast Siemensstadt Calling #13 mit Franziska Giffey**

### **[00:36:29.620] - Franziska Giffey**

Well, I've already seen the future designs. Some of them are certainly sketches, as you can roughly imagine, but I'm looking forward to being able to experience this new city district in terms of its external appearance, as a modern city. And I'm incredibly looking forward to being able to get out of Siemensstadt at the train station for the first time and say: "Now I've traveled here by public transport and this train station has finally woken up from its slumber. We were at the train station together and looked at how overgrown the tracks were, how everything was in such a state of disrepair and how you can't imagine how it would happen again... Yes, you can imagine it, but you can't see it yet. And I'm really looking forward when that becomes possible and when you suddenly put this entire city district back to a much, much better use and simply bring people into the city and into this district, who otherwise wouldn't come. I'm really looking forward to that.

### **[00:37:29.710] - Sarah Tietze**

Thank you, Ms Giffey. Thank you very much, Stefan, for the wonderful dialogue and I am also looking forward to Siemensstadt and thank you to all listeners for listening and see you soon in Siemensstadt Square.