

Cooperation at the Interface of Vehicle and Production Technologies

KIT Researcher Steven Peters Is First Industry Fellow of Daimler AG



Works at KIT and in industry: Dr. Steven Peters. (Photo: KIT/wbk)

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A novel type of cooperation between Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and Daimler AG is aimed at evaluating new production processes and developing industrialization concepts for innovative technologies in automotive engineering. The industry fellowship “GoTech4DAI – Global Technology Monitoring for Dynamic Automotive Industries” bridges the gap between both disciplines and between science and industry. Industry Fellow Dr. Steven Peters is senior engineer at KIT’s Institute of Production Science (wbk).

“My tasks lie at the interface of vehicle and production technologies and the interface between science and industry,” Dr. Steven Peters explains. At KIT’s Institute of Production Science, Peters works in the research area of “Production Systems” headed by Professor Gisela Lanza. His team consists of 15 engineers. Within the framework of the “GoTech4DAI” industry fellowship, Peters studies methods to evaluate new production technologies that are still “immature”, which means not yet suited for series production in terms of costs, quality, or flexibility.

Together with the Center for Production and Materials Technologies (PWT) and the Research Department (RD) of Daimler AG, he develops industrialization concepts for new technologies in automotive engineering. Future models of Mercedes-Benz with their complex drive technologies serve as an example. Intelligent multi-materials lightweight construction also plays an important role. Work is aimed at using the best suited material for every component.

With “GoTech4DAI”, KIT and Daimler AG further intensify their long-standing close cooperation. The fellowship was initiated and promoted by Professor Gisela Lanza, Head of the Institute of Production Science (wbk) of KIT, and Professor Thomas Weber, Member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG, who is responsible for Group Research at Mercedes-Benz Cars Development. Gisela Lanza, member of the Industry-Science Research Alliance of the federal government and Shared Professor with Daimler AG until 2012, underlines the importance of the so-called shared models to KIT: “I think that close cooperation of research and industry in mechanical engineering in particular can generate a sustainable added value for both sides. This understanding has a long tradition at KIT and in particular at the wbk.”

As one of the shared instruments of KIT, industry fellowships allow for a close connection of research conducted by excellent young scientists to industrial applications and for the rapid knowledge transfer from research to industry and vice versa. Dr. Dieter Seegmüller, Head of the PWT of Daimler AG, considers the cooperation to be “a joint contribution to the superordinate objective of considering the development of production technologies in an earlier stage of the development process of new vehicles.” Dr. Christian Hahner, Director of Daimler AG Group Research and responsible for the research strategy and technology management, emphasizes the great potential of this innovative cooperation for both sides.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9400 employees, including nearly 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24500 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.

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