

## Big Success of the Open Day at KIT

35,000 Visitors Experience Research First-hand at the KIT Institutes and Laboratories



*Science to join in on KIT's Open Day: President Holger Hanselka with the humanoid robot ARMAR. (Photo: Irina Westermann)*

**At the Open Day event, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) presented a multi-faceted program with about 200 individual events, including vivid presentations and join-in actions, spectacular experiments, and popular science lectures. More than 35,000 visitors glimpsed behind the scenes and discovered the large scope of research at KIT, which extends from contributions to the energiewende to future mobility, to climate and environmental research, to sustainability research, to robot development. Research into solutions for the information era was presented as was the development of new materials and astroparticle research.**

“The Open Day was a big success, I am really happy about this great feedback,” says the President of KIT, Professor Holger Hanselka. “With our successful event, we gave many visitors, children as well as adults, deeper insights into KIT’s fascinating research. Easy-to-understand lectures and experiments by employees of KIT made the public share the fascination of science. And also our stu-

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dents contributed significantly to the success of the Open Day with their Unifest and at the institutes.”

“In Karlsruhe, future has already started. The Open Day at KIT has shown this in a rather impressive manner,” the Lord Mayor of the city of Karlsruhe, Dr. Frank Mentrup, emphasizes. “I would like to thank all participants for giving the citizens of Karlsruhe this overwhelming insight into the world of science. KIT goes future and Karlsruhe joins in.”

What will traffic and what will energy supply be like in a few years from now? Will we be able to preserve and to shape our habitat? Can we protect our private sphere on the internet? Which new materials and technologies will be needed in the future? What do the smallest building blocks of matter mean to the structure of our universe? Scientists of KIT study a number of problems relevant to society. During the Open Day, they reported about their work at the institutes, laboratories, and test facilities. During the researchers’ rallye and at numerous experimental stations, young visitors were invited to go on a discovery journey through science and engineering. “Aktiv am KIT” (Active at KIT) was the motto of the Institute of Sports and Sports Science, which offered more than 50 events, including test training sessions, lectures, and tours. The program of the Open Day also covered the topics of studies, education, and life-long learning: KIT presented itself as a place of academic education and a big employer in the region.

Also the Unifest (university party) organized by the General Students Committee (AStA) of KIT contributed to the high number of visitors on the Open Day of KIT. The AStA organized a diverse program with a concert of the KIT Big Band, a culture talkshow, and theater performances as well as a children’s program. The party took place for the 30<sup>th</sup> time already and ended with performances of live bands and discos late in the evening.

In the morning, the EFFEKTE science festival started. On this occasion, President Holger Hanselka and Lord Mayor Frank Mentrup also opened the “Walk of Innovation”: 30 stations present inventions in history that changed the world and matching current research projects of KIT. The exhibition between the Palace and KIT Campus South can be seen until September 27. Within the next days and weeks, KIT will provide further contributions to the EFFEKTE Science Festival and the city’s birthday program. For further information, click: [www.kit.edu/effekte2015](http://www.kit.edu/effekte2015).



*Research first-hand: At the hydrological engineering lab. (Photo: Lydia Albrecht, KIT)*



*Fascinating experiments for the family. (Photo: Sandra Göttisheim, KIT)*



*With 78 x 83 cm, the wbk Institute of Production Science baked the largest waffle in the world. (Photo: Manuel Balzer, KIT)*

For additional photos, click:  
[www.kit.edu/kit/pi\\_2015\\_070\\_grosser-erfolg-des-tags-der-offenen-tuer-am-kit](http://www.kit.edu/kit/pi_2015_070_grosser-erfolg-des-tags-der-offenen-tuer-am-kit).

**Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation pursuing the tasks of a Baden-Wuerttemberg state university and of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. The KIT mission combines the three core tasks of research, higher education, and innovation. With about 9,400 employees and 24,500 students, KIT is one of the big institutions of research and higher education in natural sciences and engineering in Europe.**

*Since 2010, the KIT has been certified as a family-friendly university.*

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