

## Information Technologies Bring the World Closer Together

**25 Years of “interACT”: Scientific Symposium in Baden-Baden Presents Latest Developments Under the Slogan “Building Bridges – Breaking Barriers”**



*Thanks to the simultaneous translation system developed at KIT, foreign students can follow German lectures more easily (picture: Sandra Göttisheim, KIT)*

**Information technologies have fundamentally changed human communication in the past 25 years, and have brought the world closer together. Even so, it continues to be important to overcome barriers – physical borders, different languages and cultures, and a lack of medical care and education. On July 14 and 15, the symposium titled “Building Bridges – Breaking Barriers” will present the latest developments in language and translation technologies, medical applications, neural networks, multimodal interfaces, dialog processing, and intelligent interaction with machines and robots at Baden-Baden Kurhaus. The “interACT” research network is celebrating its 25th birthday with the symposium. It was founded by the then University of Karlsruhe, now the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), and the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Pittsburgh, USA.**

Leading scientists from around the world and representatives from industry and politics will talk about the current state of research, as well as scientific breakthroughs and their implementation and specific application.

**Monika Landgraf  
Chief Press Officer**

Kaiserstraße 12  
76131 Karlsruhe, Germany  
Phone: +49 721 608-47414  
Fax: +49 721 608-43658  
E-mail: [presse@kit.edu](mailto:presse@kit.edu)

**For further information,  
please contact:**

Margarete Lehné  
Press Officer KIT  
Phone: +49 721 608-48121  
Fax: +49 721 608-43658  
[margarete.lehne@kit.edu](mailto:margarete.lehne@kit.edu)

One of the topics covered at the symposium is **automatic translation**, one of the main areas of research of Alexander Waibel, a professor at KIT and CMU, and the director of interACT. Whether it's the automatic translation of lectures for foreign students, support for translators at the European Parliament, or the translation of telephone calls, the possible applications are virtually limitless. The topic will be looked at from various angles in short presentations and panel discussions. An exhibition featuring live demonstrations provides the option for attendees to try out technologies (see "Language/Translation Technology" and "Interpretation" sections in the program below).

You will find the detailed program of the symposium at: [www.interact25.org](http://www.interact25.org).

#### **The "international center for Advanced Communication Technologies (interACT)"**

The task of interACT is to develop advanced communication technologies, robotics and artificial intelligence. Starting off as an informal collaboration between two partners, it has now grown into a center with partners which are among the leading information technology institutions worldwide:

- Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany
- Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA
- National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Nara, Japan
- Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China
- University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA
- Italian Institute of Technology, Genoa, Italy
- Institute of Science and Technology, Nara, Japan

**Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) pools its three core tasks of research, higher education, and innovation in a mission. With about 9,300 employees and 25,000 students, KIT is one of the big institutions of research and higher education in natural sciences and engineering in Europe.**

**KIT: The Research University in the Helmholtz Association**

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

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