BMW Group and KIT Enhance Cooperation
Cooperation in Research and Education

Signing the Memorandum of Understanding: Dr. Herbert Diess, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG (2nd from left) and Dr. Peter Fritz, Vice President for Research and Innovation of KIT (2nd from right). Hendrik Lang, Vice President of BMW (left), Dr. Joachim Knebel, Chief Science Officer of KIT (right). Standing: Dr. Mirjam Storim, BMW officer responsible for cooperation with universities. (Photo: Markus Breig)

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and the BMW Group will further extend their cooperation. Dr. Herbert Diess, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG responsible for the purchasing and supplier network, and Dr. Peter Fritz, KIT Vice President for Research and Innovation, signed a memorandum of understanding in Karlsruhe.

“Innovation to implement technologies developed in real practice is a central element of the KIT strategy,” said Dr. Peter Fritz, KIT Vice President for Research and Innovation. “With BMW, we have found another partner interested in our new mobility concepts and strategies that extend far beyond the technology proper.”

“Cooperation with universities is of high importance to us. A leading research institution like KIT gives valuable impulses for the future development of the supply chain in particular,” emphasized Dr. Her-
bert Diess when signing the cooperation agreement.

The cooperation is intended to support extensive exchange on all levels. It comprises a wide scope of activities for both sides to benefit to a maximum extent. Both senior researchers and young scientists of KIT will closely cooperate with the development departments of the BMW Group. Vice versa, the BMW Group will convey to the students the topics and requirements relevant in industry and, thus, extend the students’ network for their later career.

Cooperation will concentrate on supply chain management, drive train technologies, mobility behavior and mobility concepts as well as on energy management. These are fields in which both cooperation partners have advanced to a considerable extent. It is planned to execute joint research projects and to organize joint education events, including graduation and PhD theses and traineeships.

The BMW Group is presently reorganizing its cooperation with universities worldwide. It plans to establish strategic partnerships with selected, international universities. Cooperation is planned to focus on eleven fields of research. In the technical sector, these fields of research cover new drive train technologies and materials. In the commercial sector, it is focused on topics like supply chain management and new mobility concepts.

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. KIT focuses on a knowledge triangle that links the tasks of research, teaching, and innovation.

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