

Pushing Innovations in the Energy Sector

KIC InnoEnergy Germany GmbH Founded – More Research Projects – New KIT Master Program



From left to right: Professor Hans-Jörg Bauer, current Managing Director of KIC InnoEnergy Germany GmbH, future Managing Director Dr. Christian Müller, Professor Wolfram Ressel, President of Stuttgart University, Dr. Peter Fritz, KIT Vice President for Research and Innovation. (Photo: Sandra Göttisheim)

The European consortium KIC InnoEnergy, the setup of which is coordinated by Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), pushes innovations in the energy sector and, thus, works for a sustainable European energy system. It is aimed at closing innovation gaps and strengthening the innovative power of Europe. Now, KIC InnoEnergy has made another important step by founding a limited-liability company in Karlsruhe. This company coordinates the activities of KIC InnoEnergy in the area of “Energy from chemical energy carriers.”

Foundation of KIC InnoEnergy Germany GmbH has been completed by its registration. “Foundation of the GmbH (limited-liability company) represents a major step in the setup of the consortium, as it enhances the operative force of the German location and, hence, of the network,” emphasizes Professor Hans-Jörg Bauer, scientific spokesman of the KIT Energy Center and current managing director of the company. In his opinion, foundation of the company reflects the long-term commitment of the partners to KIC InnoEnergy and confirms the feasibility of the InnoEnergy concept. Apart from KIT, Stuttgart University, EnBW, and the Steinbeis Europa Zentrum are



KIT Energy Center: Having future in mind

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among the founders of the company. LBBW, Intel, and Fraunhofer ISI are other partners involved in the activities of the GmbH. The company's office is located in Karlsruhe. From January 01, 2013, Dr. Christian Müller will be managing director of KIC InnoEnergy Germany. The consortium has also founded the European society (Societas Europae) KIC InnoEnergy SE. In late September, Dr. Karl-Friedrich Ziegahn, Chief Science Officer and Head of the Energy and Environment Programs at KIT, was unanimously confirmed in his office as chairman of the supervisory board of KIC InnoEnergy SE. Among others, the supervisory board defines the strategy of the KIC, appoints the managing director, and controls the funds as well as business administration by the management board.

KIC InnoEnergy was selected one of three first Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KIC) by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology three years ago. So far, about 150 partner companies, universities, research institutions, and business schools in Europe have joined the KIC. KIC InnoEnergy aims at establishing a sustainable energy system in Europe, at commercializing new energy technologies much quicker, and at strengthening Europe in worldwide competition. The consortium is organized in six co-location centers (CC) that coordinate one energy sector each. The German CC Karlsruhe-Stuttgart focuses on the innovation process for sustainable energy supply and coordinates the topic of energy from chemical energy carriers in Europe. The high potential of biomass for the production of synthetic fuels, for instance, was recently confirmed by a study of the mineral oil company Shell. According to this study, up to 70% of fuel may be based on biomass by 2050.

Activities of the consortium address the triangle of education, research, and innovation. Since the start of its operative business in December 2010, the network has initiated successfully a number of projects. Presently, 195 participants are taking part in master, Ph.D., and executive master programs. In the coming 2012/13 winter semester, this offer will be extended by another three master programs. One of these programs is "Energy Technologies" (ENTECH) coordinated by KIT. This program offers profound education in the field of sustainable energy systems and underlying technologies. A particular focus lies on conveying entrepreneurial thinking and acting. ENTECH students can study not only at KIT, but also at other European universities that are members of the consortium.

KIC InnoEnergy has also extended its commitment with respect to research projects. Last year, the German co-location successfully



Confirmed in office as chairman of the supervisory board of KIC InnoEnergy SE: Dr. Karl-Friedrich Ziegahn. (Photo: KIT, Martin Lober)

acquired three new industry-coordinated projects. In addition, the network has conceived InnoEnergy Highway™, i.e. comprehensive services for startup projects in the energy sector. The German co-location works on the implementation and commercialization of these services.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is one of Europe's leading energy research establishments. Research, education, and innovation at KIT foster the energy turnaround and reorganization of the energy system in Germany. KIT links excellent competences in engineering and science with know-how in economics, the humanities, and social sciences. The activities of the KIT Energy Center are organized in seven topics: Energy conversion, renewable energies, energy storage and distribution, efficient energy use, fusion technology, nuclear power and safety, and energy systems analysis. Clear priorities lie in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energies, energy storage systems and grids, electric mobility, and enhanced international cooperation in research.

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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