

## IONYS Wins “Processes” Category of STEP Awards Competition

Startup of KIT and Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences Wins Competition Launched by F.A.Z. Institute and Infracerv Höchst



Winner of the STEP award category “Processes”: The IONYS team with the chairman of the supervisory board Prof. Dr. Andreas Gerdes (center) and the board members Paul Wirtz (left) and Dr. Rüdiger Werp (right). (Photo: Maik Reuß)

Yesterday evening, IONYS AG was granted the 2012 Step Award in the “Processes” category in Frankfurt. The Step Award competition initiated by the F.A.Z. Institute for Innovation Projects and Infracerv Höchst is granted to innovative, high-growth enterprises in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The jury was convinced by IONYS AG’s business concept for the development of innovative and long-lived construction materials.

It is one of the objectives of IONYS AG to enhance the sustainability of bridges, tunnels, airports, and other technical infrastructure facilities by using new high-performance materials. An example is a gel that extends the service life of bridges when applied to the concrete. Such materials help reduce the lifecycle costs of buildings and prevent high-expenditure and costly repair. This approach pursued by the startup of KIT and the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences won the “Processes” category in the 2012 Step Award competition. In November already did IONYS AG succeed in the competition for

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  
Phone: +49 721 608-4 8121  
Fax: +49 721 608-4 3658  
E-mail: [margarete.lehne@kit.edu](mailto:margarete.lehne@kit.edu)

Yasmin Karon  
IONYS AG  
Phone: +49 721 608 29050  
Fax: +49 721 608 29030  
E-mail: [y.karon@ionys.de](mailto:y.karon@ionys.de)

Holger Gust  
Karlsruhe University of Applied  
Sciences  
Phone: +49 721 925 1016  
Fax: +49 721 925 1005  
E-mail: [pr@hs-karlsruhe.de](mailto:pr@hs-karlsruhe.de)

the State Award for Young Startups: In the competition launched by the Baden-Württemberg state government and L-Bank, the company was ranked under the top ten of more than 460 participants. More information: [http://www.kit.edu/besuchen/pi\\_2012\\_12248.php](http://www.kit.edu/besuchen/pi_2012_12248.php).

100 companies from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland competed for this year's Step Award of the F.A.Z. Institute for Innovation Projects and Infraserb Höchst. The competition is aimed at giving companies in the growth phase major incentives for further successful development. It is focused on the branches of chemistry, pharmaceuticals, life science, bio-/nanotechnology, medical engineering, and green technologies. The jury consists of company representatives as well as of independent experts from industry and science. Awards were granted in four other categories, the overall winner was NanoTemper GmbH.

**IONYS AG, established 2008 as a spinoff of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences, offers special products and services for the construction sector. The services section focuses on status analyses of construction materials and components and develops overall prevention and restoration concepts. The paramount objectives are to reduce infrastructure costs and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

**Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences has about 7625 students and is one of the largest universities of applied sciences in Baden-Württemberg. Apart from education, applied research plays a vital role. As regards the acquisition of third-party funding, the university is among the top universities of applied sciences in Baden-Württemberg. It cooperates closely with regional and supra-regional industry.**

**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.**

This press release is available on the internet at [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu).