

## The Energy Turnaround as a Joint Effort

Public Discussion about Expectations from Politics, Science, and Citizens at the Scientific Conference of the ENERGY-TRANS Helmholtz Alliance



*Sustainable transformation of the energy system is not only associated with technical, but also with societal challenges. (Collage: ENERGY-TRANS)*



*KIT Energy Center: Having future in mind*

**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)

**How can science, the public, and politics cooperate better in transforming the energy system? This will be the subject of a podium discussion organized by the ENERGY-TRANS Helmholtz Alliance on October 09, 2013, 19 hrs, at ZKM | Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe. All interested citizens are invited to join the discussion. This public event will be part of the international scientific conference “Energy Systems in Transition” that will take place at ZKM and the University of Arts and Design (HfG), Karlsruhe, from October 09 to October 11, 2013.**

The participants of the public discussion “Die Energiewende als Gemeinschaftswerk – Erwartungen an Wissenschaft, Politik und Bürgerschaft” (The energy turnaround as a joint effort – expectations from science, politics, and citizens) will be the Baden-Württemberg Minister of Science Theresia Bauer, the Undersecretary of State Dr. Georg Schütte from the Federal Ministry of Research, Professor Gesine Schwan, President of the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA School of Governance, and Professor Armin Grunwald from KIT, Spokesperson of the ENERGY-TRANS Helmholtz Alliance. The discussion will

be presented by Professor Ortwin Renn from the University of Stuttgart, who also is spokesperson of ENERGY-TRANS. The discussion is supposed to provide new insights in the translation of scientific findings into political actions. The discussion will also and mainly focus on the role of citizens in the area-wide realization of the objectives of the energy turnaround. In particular, participation of the population in the planning of new infrastructure facilities will be essential to the success of the energy turnaround.

Research under the ENERGY-TRANS Helmholtz Alliance coordinated by KIT addresses the requirements associated with the transformation of the national and European energy system. ENERGY-TRANS analyzes the energy system mainly from the perspective of the society's demand and users. It studies the numerous interfaces among technical, economic, and social factors that determine the transformation and the planning and construction of new infrastructure facilities. As a result, action-oriented knowledge will be supplied for the efficient and socially compatible design of the future energy system.

During the conference "Energy Systems in Transition – Inter- and Transdisciplinary Contributions", scientists of various disciplines will discuss conditions and consequences of the sustainable transformation of energy supply. The conference will focus among others on renewable energies from the systemic perspective, smart grids under interdisciplinary aspects, the management of complex transformation processes, participation and public acceptance, the role of cities and regions in the transformation of the energy system as well as on energy and economic development.

For more information on the conference, click <http://www.energy-trans.de/conference-2013/index.php>.

#### **About the ENERGY-TRANS Helmholtz Alliance**

The ENERGY-TRANS Helmholtz Alliance comprises four centres of the Helmholtz Association, three universities, and one non-university research institute. The Alliance is coordinated by the KIT. About 60 social and political scientists, psychologists and philosophers, economists, legal scholars, engineers, and systems analysts collaborate in five research fields, 17 projects, and two cross-disciplinary topics. The spokespersons of the Alliance are Professor Armin Grunwald, Head of the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) of KIT, and Professor Ortwin Renn, Director of the Research Center on Interdisciplinary Risk and Innovation Studies (ZIRIUS) of the University of Stuttgart. The Alliance is planned to span a time period of five years (2011 to 2016) and operates on a budget of EUR 16.5 million. Half of the funds has been provided by

the Initiative and Networking Fund of the Helmholtz Association, the other half is borne by the partners.

**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. For this, KIT links excellent competences in engineering and science with know-how in economics, the humanities, and social science as well as law. 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 technologies 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. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9000 employees, including nearly 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24000 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.**

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

The photo of printing quality may be downloaded under [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu) or requested by mail to [presse@kit.edu](mailto:presse@kit.edu) or phone +49 721 608-47414. The photo may be used in the context given above exclusively.