

## Zeitzeichen Sustainability Award for “District Future“

KIT Project Focuses on Sustainable Urban Development – Close Exchange among the Population, Politics, Science, and Industry



Sustainable urban development – “District Future“ asks citizens for their ideas.  
(Photo: ITAS)

The “District Future – Urban Lab” project of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) was granted the 2013 Zeitzeichen German Local Sustainability Award in the category of “Ideas”. Yesterday evening, the Germany-wide Network 21 Congress handed over the award to the scientists of the Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) at the Neues Schloss, Stuttgart. Together with the population, politics, industry, and other actors of urban society, the scientists plan to test and develop concepts for future urban life in the next years. It is their objective to sustainably design an existing district of the city of Karlsruhe.

“We have to learn to analyze integrated relationships and to realize ‘holistic’ urban development. At the moment, we are far away from this objective, and models and concepts for sustainable urban development are still lacking. The ‘District Future – Urban Lab’ project starts exactly at this point,” said the Baden-Württemberg Minister of the Environment, Climate Protection, and the Energy Sector, Franz Untersteller, in his laudation.

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District Future – Urban Lab will open up in and for Karlsruhe an area, in which promising technical and societal innovations from KIT as well as project ideas of the urban society will be implemented together with the project team in the coming years. The issues covered will range from living and building to mobility and communication to education, health, leisure, and culture. It is aimed at transforming an existing district of the city of Karlsruhe into a sustainable one. The location of the District Future is presently being negotiated. The award in the amount of EUR 2000 plus non-cash items will be used to help the actors start the project on the local level.

The project is executed by the KIT Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) and embedded in the Karlsruhe 2020 integrated urban development concept. As of now, all citizens of Karlsruhe, companies, associations, and initiatives are invited to inform themselves on the website of the project and to submit and comment ideas relating to the development of the city and city life.

**For more information, click: [www.quartierzukunft.de/en/district-future/](http://www.quartierzukunft.de/en/district-future/)**

The ZeitzeicheN Award is granted by the Germany-wide Network 21 for local sustainability to initiatives that noticed the signs of the times, build bridges to society, and initiate sustainable acting. This year, awards were granted to seven projects from all over Germany. They were handed over at the Network 21 congress organized by GRÜNE LIGA Berlin in cooperation with the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of the Environment, Climate, and the Energy Sector in Stuttgart. Funding is provided by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, the Federal Environment Agency, the Rat für Nachhaltige Entwicklung (Sustainable Development Council), the German Association of Cities, the German Association of Districts, and the Deutscher Städte- und Gemeindebund (Association of German Cities and Municipalities).

**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).

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