

Chemicals Stolen at KIT

On January 23, 2014 in the evening, an employee of the large-scale research sector of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology was controlled when leaving the premises due to the suspected theft of chemicals, a specially prepared glass vessel, and other objects. Internal security procedures of KIT and reasonable grounds resulted in the exit control of the person and the discovery of the theft. The police was called immediately. In agreement with the police and the public prosecutor's office, it was first refrained from communicating the incident due to ongoing investigation.

As a result of the immediately started investigations of the police and a house search in the same night and a few days later, big amounts of additional chemicals and other objects were found, most of which had been stolen from KIT. The case was then taken over by the public prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe.

KIT has now initiated an extensive internal examination as to how this incident could have happened. Normally, a four-eyes principle is applied when ordering chemicals. Order processes are checked in several stages and also a necessity check is required. The accused person assumed a position of trust and had a high technical qualification.

Due to the incident, KIT has arranged for the conditions of the order procedure and the internal control mechanisms being reviewed extensively. If necessary, the control system will be tightened and monitored more closely in order to ensure that such incidents will not happen again. The employment relationship with the employee was terminated.

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

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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.