

Wolfgang Seemann Is Awarded the “Palmes Académiques”

High Honor for Seemann’s German-French Commitment in the University Sector



Ceremony in Berlin: The French Ambassador Maurice Gourdault-Montagne (right) awards the Palmes Académiques to Professor Wolfgang Seemann. (Photo: Seemann)

Wolfgang Seemann, Professor for Technical Mechanics at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and co-founder of the German-French Initiative at the KIT, was granted the “Ordre des Palmes Académiques”. With this award, the French Republic honors Seemann’s high merits for German-French cooperation in the university sector. Today, the French Ambassador in Germany, Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, handed over the “Palmes Académiques, Grade Officier” to Seemann during a ceremony at the French Embassy in Berlin.

The “Order des Palmes Académiques” is one of the highest awards in France for merits in the French education sector. The KIT traditionally attaches a high importance to cooperation with French partners in research, education, and innovation. These activities are coordinated by the German-French Initiative at the KIT, KIT-DeFI. Professor Wolfgang Seemann, Division Head at the Institute of Engineering Mechanics (ITM), is one of the founders of KIT-DeFI and manages it together with Professor Johannes Orphal. KIT-DeFI

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among others offers a large scope of German-French double-degree study programs, supports joint research projects, establishes partnerships with French institutions, organizes meetings, summer schools, language and training courses.

In addition, Wolfgang Seemann is responsible for the cooperation program of the KIT with ENSAM – Arts et Métiers ParisTech and with the École Polytechnique ParisTech, two of the most renowned Grandes Écoles in France. Until recently, Professor Seemann was member of the Scientific Council of the German-French University (DFH), an association of universities in Germany and France to enhance cooperation in the university and research sector.

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 9400 employees, including more than 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24500 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.

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