

Highly Relieved about the Successful Rescue of KIT Employee

In the late morning (11.44 hrs, June 19, 2014), the employee of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, who had been injured by an accident in the Riesending Cave in the Berchtesgaden Alps last Sunday, was brought out of the cave by rescue teams. With this, the very difficult rescue was completed successfully after twelve days. “We are highly relieved and happy about the successful rescue of our employee and colleague. In the name of all staff members of KIT, we hope that he will recover soon,” said Professor Holger Hanselka, President of KIT.

“Our thanks go to the Bergwacht Bayern (Bavarian Mountain Rescue Service) and the many local helpers, who successfully completed the difficult rescue with great care and high personal commitment. We followed the rescue work and always felt with the relatives,” said Dr. Elke Luise Barnstedt, Vice President of KIT for Human Resources and Law.

At KIT, Johann Westhauser is member of the technical staff of the Institute of Applied Physics. Speleology is the hobby of Westhauser, who has joined the Association for Speleology of Bad Cannstatt.

“We all at the institute are very relieved about the good news. We wish Johann Westhauser a complete recovery and hope that he will soon return to his working team,” said Professor Martin Wegener of the Institute of Applied Physics.

After his rescue at 11.44 hrs, Westhauser is now in emergency medical care.

The 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.

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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.

This press release is available on the internet at www.kit.edu.