

Five Years KIT Business Club

Innovation by Communication: How Science and Industry Profit from Each Other



For five years now, the KIT Business Club has been bringing together science and industry. (Photo: Markus Breig)

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At Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), researchers constantly develop new technologies that promise to be beneficial for industry and the society. At the same time, the companies' demand for innovative products and concepts is increasing. The KIT Business Club brings together science and industry: It supplies information, identifies potential areas of cooperation, and establishes contacts. The about 30 renowned enterprises that have joined the Business Club so far profit from these activities. Recently, the KIT Business Club celebrated its fifth anniversary.

“Innovation is a strategic pillar of KIT. The KIT Business Club strengthens the innovative power of KIT and of the companies cooperating with it,” said KIT President Professor Holger Hanselka on the occasion of the anniversary. “It identifies individual market needs of its members and provides systematic access to the potentials of KIT and the contacts in its environment.” In the opinion of Hanselka, close affiliation of the Business Club to the management of KIT and organizational integration into the KIT Innovation Management Ser-

vice Unit ensure that the Club is a central node point for information and contacts at KIT.

The KIT Business Club was established in 2009, the year when KIT was founded. Its concept follows that of internationally renowned universities, such as the University of Oxford and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In the German research sector, the KIT Business Club is a rather new structure. The results of the Club's five years of work are quite impressive. The members are industrial companies as well as service companies, globally acting corporate groups as well as innovative medium-sized enterprises. 27 renowned companies have joined the Club and profit from its offers. These are: 3M, ABB, AVL, Bank von Roll, Bayer, Bosch, Bruker, Bürkert, BW-Bank, EnBW, E+H, Eternit, Hirschmann, Inno-veas, Kraftanlagen Heidelberg, Magna Powertrain, M + W Group, NDT, Walter Neff GmbH, Opel, Pilz, PWC, Siemens, Technologiepark Karlsruhe, Voith, Witzenmann, Würth.

“Our services are constantly adapted to the needs of the member enterprises and KIT,” says the Head of the KIT Business Club, Dr. Barbara Schmuker. “As a result, the KIT Business Club is developed further and gaining attractiveness for both sides.” To bring together people, projects, and know-how, the KIT Business Club determines the research and development interests of its member enterprises, organizes extensive searches, and establishes contacts, both to the KIT and among the enterprises. The members are provided with latest information or technology offers and invited to join events, such as theme days, meetings, and workshops.

For the scientists, the KIT Business Club is a forum for mutual knowledge transfer and the initiation of projects to commercialize innovations.

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. 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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