

KIT's President: Big Success for German Science

Federal Council Decides to Ease the Prohibition of Cooperation – Comment Relating to the Amendment of Article 91b of the German Constitution

"Easing of the prohibition of cooperation is of historical importance to German science and opens up extraordinary opportunities for the further development of our university system and for Germany as a location of research," the President of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Professor Holger Hanselka, says. "Science is a global and not a federal topic. The potential of this structural commitment of the Federation opens up new opportunities for German institutions as regards the orientation of research and education in international competition. The resources can be tailored optimally to the needs and synergies can be made use of across locations." In the opinion of Hanselka, easing the prohibition of cooperation will enable the Federation to support relations between universities and non-university institutions more strongly than before. "Establishment of the KIT as a unique model has profoundly changed the German research system," Hanselka emphasizes. "We are very happy that also other institutions will now be able to follow this example. For the KIT, this political decision means the chance to reduce still existing administrative obstacles, such as the separation of the flows of funds. This will give us more room for action."

As a result of the amendment of Article 91b of the German Constitution, the Federation will be in the position to permanently fund individual universities and institutes in the future. So far, this has only been possible under special programs and dedicated projects of e.g. the Excellence Initiative.

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 24,500 stu-

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dents, 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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