

KIT President Hanselka Congratulates Horst Hippler

Order of Merit of the State of Baden-Württemberg Granted to Horst Hippler – Hanselka: “Horst Hippler Is a Pioneer of Vision”

Today, Minister President Winfried Kretschmann handed over the Order of Merit of the State of Baden-Württemberg to 25 persons, including Professor Horst Hippler, President of the German Rectors’ Conference. As former President of Universität Karlsruhe, Hippler played a key role in establishing the KIT and was its first President.

The current President of KIT, Professor Holger Hanselka, comments:

“Horst Hippler is a pioneer of vision. With determination and high personal commitment, he pushed the then daring idea of a merger of a state university with a federation-funded research center. In this way, he did not only shape Karlsruhe as a university location, but also the entire science system in Germany,” Hanselka underlines. “Together with his colleagues in the Executive Board, Hippler worked on making his vision – the KIT – come true and was supported by national and state politics. We are very much obliged to Horst Hippler. In this function as President of the German Rectors’ Conference, Hippler continued to have an eye on international competition of science institutions. I congratulate him on this highly deserved honor.”

Among the 25 persons, who were granted the Order of Merit by Minister President Kretschmann, also is a known alumnus of KIT, the astronaut Alexander Gerst. He studied at the University of Karlsruhe, one of the two precursor institutions of KIT, and was conferred his diploma in geophysics in 2003. “At KIT, we are very proud of how successful Alexander Gerst has made his way since his studies in Karlsruhe,” Hanselka says.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation pursuing the tasks of a Baden-Wuerttemberg state university and of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. The KIT mission combines the three core tasks of research, higher education, and innovation. With about 9,400 employees and 24,500 students, KIT is one of the big institutions of research and higher education in natural sciences and engineering in Europe.

Monika Landgraf
Chief Press Officer

Kaiserstraße 12
76131 Karlsruhe, Germany
Phone: +49 721 608-47414
Fax: +49 721 608-43658
E-mail: presse@kit.edu

Since 2010, the KIT has been certified as a family-friendly university.

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