

Sustainable Solutions for Pressing Future Problems

2016 KIT Annual Celebration: Energy, Mobility, and Information in the Focus of Research – Knowledge for Society and the Environment – Hanselka on KIT 2025: Full Use of Synergy Potentials



Professor Holger Hanselka, President of KIT. (Photo: Markus Breig, KIT)

Energy, mobility, and information: In these areas, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) significantly contributes to mastering major challenges of society, such as the energy turnaround. KIT's annual celebration at the Karlsruhe Congress Center presented these research areas and their interfaces. They are covered by the KIT 2025 Umbrella Strategy adopted last year. "This was a major milestone and gives us the opportunity to actively shape and design our future," the President of KIT, Professor Holger Hanselka, said.

"The past year was not only successful for KIT, it was path-breaking: With the KIT 2025 Umbrella Strategy, we have taken the necessary steps for the next years," Hanselka emphasized. "As KIT – The Research University in the Helmholtz Association, we make clear that we have become *one* KIT. This gives rise to incredibly exciting perspectives and major synergy potentials that can be used to the full extent."

Based on its wide scope of disciplines, KIT plans to enhance its focus on energy, mobility, and information and to align its research activities

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to these global challenges. "The interfaces of these areas of demand of society are of particular relevance and have to be covered optimally by both fundamental and applied research. Only in this way will we contribute essentially to the success of big projects, such as the *energiewende*, sustainable mobility or smart information technologies," Holger Hanselka pointed out. Top-level research, education, and innovation are clear objectives of KIT, he continued. "With research-based university studies, our students are prepared well for responsible tasks in society, industry, and science. Our innovation efforts build a bridge between findings and application," the President of KIT emphasized.

"KIT has accepted the challenge of merging two institutions in an entity. Today, we can proudly say that KIT has managed to optimally seize the associated opportunities and to establish itself as a brand known worldwide," the Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board of KIT, Dr. Andreas Kreimeyer, said. "KIT now is prepared well for addressing big tasks in the future."

The Mayor of the City of Karlsruhe, Dr. Frank Mentrup, emphasized: "Karlsruhe and the KIT are very closely linked. International competitiveness of the region of Karlsruhe is based on the constantly growing interconnection of science and industry. KIT works on the pulse of industry and society and makes essential contributions to national and international cutting-edge research."

Panel Discussion

Electric mobility, smart power grids, user acceptance, IT security, and industry 4.0: The effects of technology in these areas were in the focus of the panel discussion presented by Markus Brock. With Professor for Technology Ethics and Science Philosophy, Rafaela Hillerbrand, Martin Doppelbauer, Professor of Hybrid Electric Vehicles, and Professor Veit Hagenmeyer, Energy Informatics Expert, Brock talked about KIT's research activities in the areas of energy, mobility, and information as well as about the importance of the interfaces and of dialog with society.

Department Teaching Awards

Research- and application-oriented teaching modules, innovative teaching formats, interdisciplinarity, and up-to-date approaches: Outstanding education efforts of the KIT departments are honored by the Department Teaching Award of KIT's Presidential Committee. At the



"How will technology effect our mobile future, digitization, and energy transition?": Presenter Markus Brock discussed this question with Rafaela Hillerbrand, Veit Hagenmeyer, and Martin Doppelbauer.

(From left to right. Photo: Markus Breig, KIT)

annual celebration, Professor Alexander Wanner, KIT Vice President for Higher Education and Academic Affairs, handed over the awards to 18 lecturers of KIT. The awards in the amount of EUR 10,000 each are granted annually to teaching staff of the eleven KIT departments.

For video portraits of the award winners, click www.kit.edu/foerderung/19689.php (in German only).

Elevator Pitch

The idea underlying an elevator pitch is to convince the boss or potential investors of a business idea within a short period of time spent in an elevator together. Six startups of KIT presented their ideas for about 90 seconds each. The audience chose the winner: store2be, an online platform for the temporary booking of action and sales areas in retail stores or shopping centers. All six startups were founded by members of the Pioniergarage university group of KIT.



*Result of the elevator pitch: The audience voted via smartphone.
(Photo: Markus Breig, KIT)*

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) pools its three core tasks of research, higher education, and innovation in a mission. With about 9,300 employees and 25,000 students, KIT is one of the big institutions of research and higher education in natural sciences and engineering in Europe.

KIT – The Research University in the Helmholtz Association

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

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