

## Award for Physics School Laboratory

The Day of School Laboratories on November 24 at KIT Will also Focus on Mathematics, Chemistry, and Biology



Mathematic tricks will also be covered by the Day of School Laboratories at KIT.  
(Photo: photocase.de)

The Physics School Laboratory Initiative at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is one of the winners of the competition "Energie für Bildung" (energy for education). On Wednesday, November 24, the GasVersorgung Süddeutschland (GVS, South-German gas supply company) will hand over the award. The award ceremony will be one highlight on the day of school laboratories at KIT. Other events will take place at the Department of Mathematics and the Center for Advanced Technological and Environmental Training (FTU).

With its competition "Energie für Bildung", GVS supports projects to sustainably promote the interest of children and adolescents in natural sciences and engineering. "This award confirms us in our work. We want to relieve pupils of their reservations and fascinate them for modern physics," says Dr. Antje Bergmann, Head of the School La-

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**Detailed information on the school  
labs:**

[www.zdmka.uni-karlsruhe.de](http://www.zdmka.uni-karlsruhe.de)  
<http://psi.physik.kit.edu/>  
<http://www.fortbildung.kit.edu/72.php>

**Information on the competition:**

[www.gvs-energiefuerbildung.de](http://www.gvs-energiefuerbildung.de)

boratory. "Our experiments always have a playful component, as we want to demonstrate that physics also is fun."

The new geophysics experiment is aimed at familiarizing pupils from upper school grades with the methodology of geoelectrics. Together with geophysicists, students design this experiment as part of their state examination. The award in the amount of EUR 1000 shall be used to employ a student assistant as well as for purchasing materials, electric probes, measurement instruments, and the construction of a plexiglass box.

In the three rooms of the laboratory opened in 2009, pupils can carry out experiments in the fields of optics, photonics, quantum mechanics, elementary particle physics, and geophysics, which cannot be performed at school for reasons of costs and time. In addition, the pupils have direct contact to scientists and are given insight into scientific work. The laboratory operates successfully. "Schools from the region have registered for courses until May 2011," says Antje Bergmann. In addition, the number of individual pupils attending the laboratory increases, for an internship, for instance. Apart from the geophysics experiment, a holography experiment, a scanning force microscope, and a fog chamber are being installed at the moment.

Mathematical wizardry and mysteries will be in the focus of the mathematics school laboratory on November 24. The fourth form of the Walzbach School, Jöhlingen, will encounter calculation tricks unknown in school, a stone age computer, and disappeared squares. Then, the children will experiment with more than 70 exhibits of the school laboratory. In the near future, the school laboratory expects the visit of the 500<sup>th</sup> school class. The school laboratory is also open to interested persons once per month on a Friday afternoon.

On the day of school laboratories, FTU will offer a training workshop on experiments with water for educators of the Haus der kleinen Forscher (house of little researchers). The genetic fingerprint will be studied by a class from the Hohentwiel-Gewerbeschule Singen, Bodensee. This molecular biology technique is applied in criminalistics or paternity tests, for instance. The pupils are familiarized with modern scientific methods and given an insight into laboratory work. The class will be one of more than 200 classes that have joined the school laboratories of FTU in 2010.

**Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation and state institution of Baden-Württemberg, Germany. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. KIT focuses on a knowledge triangle that links the tasks of research, teaching, and innovation.**

This press release is available on the internet at [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu).