50 Years of Informatics in Germany

Ceremony to Mark the Anniversary of the Introduction of Informatics as a Subject in Karlsruhe / Exhibition and Panel Discussion with Science Minister Theresia Bauer

The founding of the “Institute of Informatics” and the introduction of informatics as a subject at the former University of Karlsruhe (TH) in 1969 was a milestone in the success story of informatics in Germany. The predecessor of KIT was one of Germany’s first facilities to recognize the importance of this branch of science and to firmly entrench it in an institute. KIT will celebrate the birth of the informatics degree on June 19, 2019 with a ceremony in the presence of Science Minister Theresia Bauer to which the media are cordially invited.

The age of digitalization is characterized by innovations in information technology. Electronic devices are omnipresent in everyday life. But 50 years ago, computers were pretty much non-existent outside the professional world, and the profession of computer scientists was unknown. The University of Karlsruhe (TH) changed all that, founded the “Institute of Informatics” and introduced the subject of informatics at the same time as four other universities. In 1972, the first informatics department was finally established in Karlsruhe.
In today's KIT Department of Informatics research is carried out on the major problems of our time such as autonomous, robotic assistance systems and artificial intelligence processes. Another beneficiary of current research and the long tradition at KIT is teaching. With a strong link to research, the graduates are prepared for current tasks in economy, science and society, not least stimulating the strong local founder scene in Karlsruhe.

KIT will celebrate the birth of the informatics degree on June 19, 2019 in a ceremony and with an expert panel on the topic of “Informatics in the age of digitalization” and a historic presentation by the founder of the KIT Department of Informatics, Professor Gerhard Goos.

**Program**

10:00 am Welcome speech
   - Professor Oliver Kraft, Vice President for Research at KIT
   - Professor Bernhard Beckert, Dean of the KIT Department of Informatics
   - Science Minister Theresia Bauer
   - Gabriele Luczak-Schwarz, mayor of the city of Karlsruhe

10:45 am Presentation on the history of informatics in Karlsruhe
   - Professor Emeritus Gerhard Goos, founder of the KIT Department of Informatics

11:15 am Panel discussion
   "Informatics in the age of digitalization", with Theresia Bauer, Prof. Oliver Kraft and Prof. Ralf Reussner.
   Chaired by: Markus Brock
11:45 am  
End of ceremony and visit by the minister to the accompanying exhibition

Location:

KIT Campus South  
Audimax foyer and auditorium  
Straße am Forum 1, 76131 Karlsruhe

After the event, members of the press will have the option of visiting the accompanying exhibition on “Informatics in Karlsruhe” together with Minister Theresia Bauer up to 12 noon and having a look at selected exhibits and demonstrators from the research partners – the FZI Research Center for Information Technology, Fraunhofer IOSB and KIT.

The media can register for the event at pr@informatik.kit.edu.

More about the KIT Information · Systems · and Technologies Center (in English): http://www.kcist.kit.edu

As “the Research University in the Helmholtz Association”, KIT creates and conveys knowledge for society and the environment. The aim is to make significant contributions to global challenges in the fields of energy, mobility and information. To achieve this, around 9,300 employees are working together on a broad disciplinary basis in natural sciences, engineering, economics, humanities and social sciences. KIT offers research-oriented studies to prepare its 25,100 students for responsible tasks in society, economy and science. Innovations at KIT bridge the gap between knowledge and application for the benefit of society, economic prosperity and the preservation of our natural resources.

This press release is available on the internet at: www.sek.kit.edu/presse.php

The photo of print quality can be downloaded at www.kit.edu or requested by mail to presse@kit.edu or phone +49 721 608-21105. The photo may be used exclusively in the context given above.

This year KIT remembers its milestones and long tradition in research, teaching and innovation with its anniversary logo. On October 1, 2009, KIT was created from the merger of its two predecessors: in 1825, the polytechnic school which later became the University of Karlsruhe (TH) was founded, and in 1956 the Kernreaktor Bau- und Betriebsgesellschaft mbH which later became Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe GmbH was founded.