

PRESS RELEASE

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Aachen wins Research Campus – National Center for Digital Photonic Production

RWTH Aachen was doubly successful in the “Research Campus – Public-Private Partnerships for Innovation” funding initiative by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The Federal Research Minister Annette Schavan announced that the Aachen research clusters “Digital Photonic Production” and “Future Electric Grids” are among the ten winners of the competition. According to Professor Günter Schuh, Director of the RWTH Aachen Campus GmbH, “this result is a great recognition of our research campus strategy. The competition has adopted about 95 percent of our concept. And that our two most audacious clusters will now receive funding of between 40 to 60 million Euros will give our initiative a further boost. RWTH Rector Ernst Schmachtenberg lauds the success of the two cluster directors, Professors Rik W. De Doncker and Reinhart Poprawe: “In this way, we achieve an even closer alignment of excellent research and industrial innovation.”

The „Research Campus - Public-Private Partnerships for Innovation“ initiative is part of the Federal Government’s “High-Tech Strategy for Germany.” Within a research campus cluster, universities, research institutions and companies join forces to collaborate on challenging long-term research topics. Each research cluster receives funding of up to two million Euros per year, for a maximum funding period of 15 years. It is required that the participating partner institutions also contribute substantial funds to the joint research project.

Digital Photonic Production

„Light as a Tool in Production“ – that is the key research area of the “Digital Photonic Production” research cluster. The aim is to use lasers in production and manufacturing processes, especially for applications in the fields of mobility, energy, health, and information and communication technology. Innovative technologies such as laser-based production processes are highly promising, and a high-profile consortium at RWTH, together with partners from research institutions, industry and SMEs, now sets out to exploit this potential in a systematic long-term collaboration. As Rainer Poprawe, RWTH Chair for Laser Technology, comments: “We are pleased that we at the BMBF Research Campus Cluster ‘Digital Photonic Production,’ in collaboration with more than 20 partners from business and industry, can contribute to this paradigm shift.”

Editorial Notes

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Future Electric Grids

Under the leadership of the E.ON Energy Research Center, the “Eco-Friendly Sustainable Energy” cluster is currently being developed to include the “Future Electric Grids” research campus cluster. This unit focuses on the investigation of direct current grids for the transmission and distribution of power. With their long-term research strategy, RWTH Aachen and its partners from industry, including leading companies, seek to contribute to securing sustainable energy supplies in the future, both nationally and internationally. As professor Rik W. De Doncker, Director of the E.ON Energy Research Center, puts it, “electric grids currently constitute a bottleneck for Germany’s energy transformation process. The research campus cluster makes it possible for us to develop the grids of the future and to thus contribute to Germany’s renewable energy program.”

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Further information concerning the funding initiative “Research Campus”:
www.forschungscampus-deutschland.de



**Digital Photonic Production –
the quick and efficient way
to individualized
components.**

**Picture Source:
DAAD/Volker Lannert.**

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.For further information

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