

ARENA2036 Research Campus enters second funding phase

Stuttgart, 12 June 2019. ARENA2036 – „Active Research Environment for the Next Generation of Automobiles” – is one of the nine research campuses in the “Public-Private Partnership for Innovation” program of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. In this new form of cooperation, partners from science and industry are researching innovative trends in the fields of mobility, production, work of the future and digitization under one roof.

The initiative was launched in 2013 and started the second funding phase last year. With this transition, the previous association structure of ARENA2036 e.V. consisting of general meeting, executive committee and steering committee was adapted within an amendment of the association’s charter. The steering committee will be replaced by the new executive committee, which now consists of twelve representatives, is equally composed of science and economy and was elected for the next five years. Among them are the seven founding members University of Stuttgart, Daimler AG, Robert Bosch GmbH, BASF SE, German Aerospace Center (DLR), Fraunhofer IPA and German Institute for Textile and Fibre Research (DITF) as well as the five other representatives Siemens AG, TRUMPF GmbH + Co. KG, Research Institute of Automotive Engineering and Vehicle Engines Stuttgart (FKFS), Stuttgart Media University (HdM) and Balluff GmbH.

Rapid growth at the ARENA2036 research campus

ARENA2036 started already in 2013 with the mentioned seven founders who were involved in the four basic projects funded by the BMBF. The support is up to two million euros per year over a period of up to 15 years. Since its foundation, the research campus has developed rapidly. With the successful integration of SMEs and start-ups, more than 30 highly motivated partners (www.arena2036.de/en/partnerships) – from suppliers and IT service providers to automobile manufacturers and various research institutions – are now working together on the world’s largest and leading research campus for versatile production and function-integrated lightweight construction. With the support of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the University of Stuttgart has built one of the most modern, flexible and largest research factories in the world. Bringing different competencies together under the umbrella of ARENA2036 creates a creative space in which science and industry cooperate at eye level and inspire each other. In the first funding phase, around 90 research projects have already been initiated.

Last year, ARENA2036 managed the transition to the second funding phase, which implied an amendment to the charter. The seven founding members Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfram Ressel (Rector of the University of Stuttgart), Andreas Friedrich (Daimler AG), Sven Hamann (Robert Bosch GmbH), Dr.-Ing. Alba Mena Subiranas (BASF SE), Prof. Dr.-Ing. Horst E. Friedrich (DLR), Prof. Dr.-Ing. Thomas Bauernhansl (Fraunhofer IPA) and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Götz T. Gresser (DITF) are under the new twelve-member executive committee. The other representatives are Dr. Jan M. Mrosik (Siemens AG), Dr. Thomas Rettich (TRUMPF GmbH + Co. KG), Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hans-Christian Reuss (FKFS), Prof. Dr. Alexander W. Roos (Rector of Stuttgart Media University) and Dr. Roland Schaefer (Balluff GmbH). As managing director of ARENA2036 e.V. Peter Froeschle remains in office.



New executive committee of ARENA2036 e.V. (from left: Wolfram Ressel, Andreas Friedrich, Sven Hamann, Alba Mena Subiranas, Horst E. Friedrich, Thomas Bauernhansl, Götz T. Gresser, Jan M. Mrosik, Thomas Rettich, Hans-Christian Reuss, Alexander W. Roos, Roland Schaefer).

ARENA2036 Research Areas – Mobility, Production, Work and Digitization

Within the excellent and interdisciplinary combination of basic research and industrial application, the work in the second funding phase at the ARENA2036 research campus concentrates on the following four collaborative projects: FlexCar, an open vehicle platform for the mobility of the future. The digital fingerprint that accompanies the entire value chain of the intelligent part in terms of data collection, processing and transfer. The agile innovation hub in which an exchange of specialist knowledge from the fields of innovation, visualization and knowledge culture takes place. And at last the Fluid Production, a human-centered, cyber-physical production system that combines the advantages of island and assembly line production.

The development of new concepts and technologies constantly entails follow-up projects that can be assigned to the subject areas of mobility, production, work and digitization. Mobility deals with current topics such as connectivity, autonomous driving, sharing services and electric drives. Coupled with the basic research in this field, this results in a starting point for future research activities of ARENA2036. Future workplaces will be more flexible and needs-based, so that an employee can optimally adapt his production environment to his personal requirements and the continuously changing product portfolio. The thematic area of production shows various approaches and perspectives for innovative manufacturing processes. Not only the environment of production will change, but also the way man and machine work together. The research area Work deals with exactly this interface and researches in the field of artificial intelligence for an interactive, international and creative way of working. The research field digitization focuses on the digital image of process and product in order to guarantee a continuous improvement of both and thus advance the communication of intelligent components with production machines, employees and customers.

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