

RWTH Aachen University locates German-Emirati-Institute

New institution promotes international collaboration in the field of Industry 4.0

RWTH Aachen University is setting up the new German-Emirati Institute in Germany to promote scientific and economic exchange between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Federal Republic of Germany. The cooperation goes back to an exchange between Chancellor Angela Merkel and Crown Prince HH Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2019, in which technology cooperation was agreed, particularly with regard to Industry 4.0. Accordingly, the full name of the new institute, which will act as project executing organisation, is "German-Emirati Institute – Technologies 4.0" (GEI) and it is located on the RWTH Aachen Campus.

"The GEI shows that the RWTH is appreciated internationally as a first-class partner for the development of new technologies, that we enjoy doing top-level research in global networks and without cultural barriers," explains Professor Ute Habel, Vice Rector for International Affairs.

A total of over 25 projects were identified in which the UAE and Germany can establish and develop Industry 4.0 projects together. Four projects in the field of emission-free synthetic fuels, intelligent cabin for aircraft, recycling of aircraft parts and improved cockpits for aircraft and cars have already received funding. Thereby a first focus is on the cooperation with industrial partners from the United Arab Emirates in the aviation research field, in which the RWTH has already initiated a collaboration at the Merzbrück research airport with its partners FH Aachen and DLR.

Participants in the first GEI projects include the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen University, the FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences and the e.SAT GmbH, a developer and manufacturer of environmentally friendly, low-noise aircraft with hybrid-electric drives. "We are pleased that, thanks to the scientific expertise and economic strength of both countries, we can concentrate on important future solutions for sustainable aviation right from the beginning. Thus we develop emission-free flying more quickly and bring it to market maturity," explains Professor Frank Janser from the faculty of Aerospace Engineering at FH Aachen University of Applied Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, Minister of Economic Affairs and Innovation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, says: "In order to bring innovations from research to practice more quickly, international technology collaborations are needed. The German-Emirati Institute founded today shows that North Rhine-Westphalia is in demand as a technology and research location far beyond Germany's borders. Together with the United Arab Emirates, we will jointly advance products and applications in future markets such as smart manufacturing, Industry 4.0 and artificial intelligence, in addition to new technologies for the aviation industry." Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed

Hareb Almheiri (Minister of State for Food and Water Security), added: "The German-Emirati Institute is a significant step forward in the UAE-German cooperation towards the development of emerging and advanced technologies, as it paves the way for joint Fourth-Industrial-Revolution projects that will help the two countries in achieving their strategic goals, diversifying their economies, and contributing to the future prosperity of their people"

Hafsa Abdulla Mohamed Sharif Al Ulama (Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Germany) and Ernst Peter Fischer (Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)) confirmed today their support for the German-Emirati Institute with many guests from politics, science and business. Peter Fischer stated: "We are pleased that with the foundation of the institute the agreement from the German-Emirati government consultations on an intensification of economic cooperation between the two countries is taking shape."

Bernhard Randerath, CEO of the new German-Emirati Institute – Technologies 4.0, adds: "The institute will centralize, manage and control the projects. Our main task is the coordination and linking of competencies and latest technological approaches as well as the access to this unique ecosystem, the bridge between our projects and cultures."

For this collaboration Aachen was chosen as main location in Germany, as RWTH Aachen University with 280 institutes and RWTH Aachen Campus, a network of science and more than 400 technology companies, dispose of the required equipment - for example research laboratories, real laboratories, workshops, testing facilities or industrial machinery.

Picture 1: The ribbon cut: (from left to right) GEI-CEO Anas Aljuaidi, Minister Andreas Pinkwart, Minister Mariam bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, GEI-CEO Bernhard Randerath and RWTH Vice-Rector Ute Habel

Picture 2: Some of the project partners who initiated the German-Emirati Institute at RWTH Aachen.

Pictures: German-Emirati Institute/Kurt Beyer

Please take notice: All persons on the pictures have been tested negative on Corona right before the event.