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# PRESS RELEASE



## Kompetenzzentrum Tribologie and Fraunhofer IST agree on strategic partnership

**On 10th July, the Hochschule Mannheim – University of Applied Sciences and the Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST signed a cooperation agreement on the expansion of joint research activities in the field of tribology and surfaces. The Kompetenzzentrum Tribologie has been working closely with the Braunschweig institute since 2018 within the framework of the newly created DFG (German research foundation) priority program SPP2074 "Fluid-free lubrication systems".**

For both institutions, the partnership means a strengthening of their position in the acquisition of publicly funded research projects. "From the point of view of the Kompetenzzentrum Tribologie, the IST is an ideal partner, as we complement each other extremely well in terms of research competence and testing methodology. The cooperation enables us to analyze problems for our industrial partners even more comprehensively than before and to collaboratively find solutions," says Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jürgen Molter, Director of the Kompetenzzentrum Tribologie.

Prof. Dr. Günter Bräuer, Director of the Fraunhofer IST, is equally enthusiastic: "During my first visit to the Kompetenzzentrum Tribologie, I was deeply impressed by the equipment and the industrial relevance of the institution. I am convinced that together we can contribute greatly towards the solving of tribological problems."

For the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, it is the first cooperation with a Fraunhofer institute. The Dean of the faculty, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Werner Grundmann, emphasizes the training opportunities for young scientists: "In the IST, we have an experienced partner with whom we can create further doctoral study opportunities for Mannheim students in the field of tribology and materials engineering."

The Rector of the Hochschule Mannheim, Prof. Dr. Astrid Hedtke-Becker, stresses the benefits for the application-oriented research: "As the Hochschule Mannheim – University of Applied Sciences, we are very pleased regarding the cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST and are convinced that we will provide a valuable impetus for technology transfer in the Metropolregion."

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**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jürgen Molter, Prof. Dr. Astrid Hedtke-Becker, Prof. Dr. Günter Bräuer and Dr.-Ing. Jochen Brand (from left to right) during the signing of the contract. ©Hochschule Mannheim, Anja Daniels**

The **Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST** is an innovative partner for research and development in surface technology, with expertise in the associated product and production systems. The aim is to develop customized and sustainable solutions: from prototypes, through economic production scenarios, to upscaling to industrial magnitudes – and all this whilst maintaining closed material and substance cycles. The Fraunhofer IST is one of the seventy-two institutes of the Fraunhofer Society, Europe's leading research organization, and with its about 120 employees has an operating budget of 12 million euros.