

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASEJune 11, 2014 | Page 1 | 3

International University Consortium: Otto von Guericke Magdeburg and the Fraunhofer IFF Join the Global Education and Research Network

Otto von Guericke University and the Fraunhofer IFF in Magdeburg have been admitted to the circle of the international Global U8 Consortium (GU8). The members of this prestigious association of universities specialized in logistics research are working to establish a global network of excellence among research and industry partners in Europe, Asia, Australia and South America.

Professor Jens Strackeljan, president of Otto von Guericke University, feels the admission to the GU8 Consortium will further strengthen Magdeburg as a center of research. "We are delighted to be allowed to join this network of excellent universities. This opens outstanding opportunities for Otto von Guericke University to develop new, promising collaborative research relationships and more first rate exchange programs with international universities. Our admission to the GU8 Consortium will increase the diversity of research here and contribute to developing our international visibility and excellence, thus making Magdeburg more attractive to students from all over the world."

Joint Research Topics

The GU8's common focus is international logistics. Its two new members, Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg and the Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation IFF, are leaders in logistics and logistics systems research in Germany. At the Saxony-Anhalt Galileo Test Bed, a one-of-a-kind laboratory for the development of positioning, navigation and communications systems, for instance, they work jointly on transportation and logistics, on new technologies for reliable port handling and hinterland transportation and on a multitude of other topics in applied transportation and logistics research.

Fraunhofer IFF Will Transfer International Research to Industry

Professor Michael Schenk, Director of the Fraunhofer IFF and holder of the Chair of Logistics Systems at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg, sees great potential in the consortium to continue advancing research in these fields. "The GU8 partners' collaboration will help us develop and consolidate our edge in logistics research internationally. This could make the network one of the most important sources of

Editor

René Maresch | Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automaton IFF, Magdeburg | Phone +49 391 4090-446
Fax +49 391 4090-93-446 | Sandtorstrasse 22 | 39106 Magdeburg | Germany | presse@iff.fraunhofer.de | Download text and images from [press on www.iff.fraunhofer.de](http://www.iff.fraunhofer.de) | Reproduction free of charge. | Sample copy requested.

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR FACTORY OPERATION AND AUTOMATION IFF, MAGDEBURG

inspiration for new technologies for reliable and efficient logistics,” according to Schenk. In this context, the Fraunhofer IFF will assume the role of the application partner for regional business and industry. The institute will coordinate academic research findings with industry, modify them and transfer them to practical applications.

Seven universities are involved in the GU8 Consortium as associated partners: Fortaleza (Brazil), Haifa (Israel), Hull (Great Britain), Le Havre (France), Inha (South Korea), Malaysia Perlis (Malaysia) and Xiamen (China) and RMIT (Australia). Their circle is now being rounded out with Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg as a full partner as well as the Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation IFF as a research partner.

The Fraunhofer IFF and Otto von Guericke University will jointly host the next GU8 Research Conference (10th JRC) in Magdeburg in 2015. The objective of the conference will be to present the research scene in Central Germany, to advance joint research and to network industries and universities more with one another

For more information, visit <http://gu8.inha.ac.kr/>

PRESS RELEASE

June 11, 2014 | Page 2 | 3



After signing the agreement on Otto von-Guericke University and the Fraunhofer IFF's admission the GU8 in Le Havre, France on April 15 and 16. Photo: Private

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR FACTORY OPERATION AND AUTOMATION IFF, MAGDEBURG



Professor Dr.-Ing. Michael Schenk, Director of the Fraunhofer IFF and Logistics Systems Chair Holder at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg. Photo: Fraunhofer IFF

PRESS RELEASE

June 11, 2014 | Page 3 | 3



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jens Strackeljan, President of Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg. Photo: Viktoria Kühne



The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the leading applied research organization in Europe and has 67 institutes and independent research units operating at locations throughout Germany. Over 23 000 employees work with an annual research budget of € 2 billion, over seventy percent of which is generated by industry contracts and publicly funded research projects. Branch offices in Europe, the USA and Asia facilitate and support international collaboration.

Contact

Fabian Behrendt | Phone +49 391 4090-411 | fabian.behrendt@iff.fraunhofer.de
Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation IFF, Magdeburg | www.iff.fraunhofer.de