

## **“Voice of the engineering sciences”**

### **Alliance of leading Universities of Technology (TU9) marks 10th anniversary**

In 2006, nine leading Universities of Technology joined forces to form the TU9 Alliance. Then as now, with research, teaching and technology transfer, the TU9 Universities make a major contribution in enhancing Germany’s position as a hub of science and innovation. In addition, they consistently promote the positions of the technical sciences to policymakers and the general public. To celebrate its tenth anniversary, the TU9 Alliance hosted a symposium attended by high-ranking representatives from science, politics and business to discuss the future of Germany as a hub of science and innovation.

**Berlin, October 12, 2016** – In January 2006, nine leading Universities of Technology joined forces to form TU9, the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany. Against the backdrop of the Bologna Process, TU9 was founded with the aim of representing the specific interests of German Universities of Technology in discourse with politics, business and society.

In the past ten years, TU9 has communicated its position on science policy issues, such as the [Bologna Process](#) (2006) and the [Academic Fixed-Term Contracts Act \(Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz\)](#) (2015), thus bringing the standpoints of TU9 Universities into the science policy debate.

The TU9 Alliance has made its name worldwide with joint stands at international student recruitment fairs and through cooperation with German schools abroad. This campaign was awarded the Higher Education Communication Prize (Preis für Hochschulkommunikation) in 2011 and in 2012 was a “Chosen Landmark” and National Winner in the Education category in the “365 Orte im Land der Ideen” competition. In this way, and with conferences and delegation trips, TU9 successfully promotes Germany as a hub of science and innovation.

#### **German Engineering brand**

“TU9 is the voice of the engineering sciences in Germany, and their touchpoint with both policymakers and society at large,” said TU9 President Professor Dr. Hans Jürgen Prömel in his review. “With the German Engineering brand, TU9 also promotes Germany internationally as a hub of science and innovation. And within the Alliance itself, we learn from one another and we coordinate our efforts, as for example with our current joint project with acatech, the National Academy of Science and Engineering, in which we are analyzing student dropout rates in the engineering sciences.”

#### **Speech by the Federal Minister of Research**

To mark its tenth anniversary, TU9 held a symposium on October 11, 2016, on the future of Germany as a science and innovation hub. In the commemorative speeches held by Federal Minister of Research Professor Wanka and acatech President Professor Kagermann, and in the subsequent panel discussion with top-ranking decision makers from academia, policymaking and business, the participants shared their ideas on Germany’s future as a hub of science and innovation, and discussed the role that the TU9 Universities can play.

“Universities of Technology combine first-class engineering training with outstanding research, ambitious early career scientists, and intensive cooperation with businesses large and small. They are

the place where the engineering sciences turn ideas into new, innovative products and services,” said Federal Minister of Education and Research Professor Johanna Wanka. “For the past ten years, the TU9 Alliance has led the field, demonstrating first-class research work and commitment.”

“Digital transformation poses tremendous challenges for our innovation system and for university education. Agility and adaptability are needed to carry the Made in Germany brand and what it stands for into the digital age,” added acatech President Professor Henning Kagermann. “The TU9 and their graduates make a huge contribution in this regard, and I wish them continued success.”

### **About TU9**

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, Technische Universität Dresden, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany’s position as a location of science and innovation.

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**TU9 was founded in 2006 and celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016.**