

Press Release

Outstanding Result for TU9 in the BMBF's "Clusters4Future" Competition

6 of 7 Future Clusters by and with TU9 Universities Selected for Funding

Berlin, February 4th, 2021

With yesterday's announcement of the results by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in the "Clusters4Future" Competition, the new future clusters have been determined.

Seven regional innovation networks were selected for funding based on the recommendation of an independent and high-ranking jury of experts. Five proposals submitted by TU9 Universities were successful, and a sixth proposal with the participation of a TU9 University also received a positive evaluation.

"The future clusters are nuclei for new business models, for creative economic pioneering solutions, for social innovations, but also for organizational solutions and new networked innovation structures for more participation throughout society!", said Federal Minister of Education and Research Anja Karliczek at yesterday's press conference.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfram Ressel, TU9 President and Rector of the University of Stuttgart, is pleased about the major success of the TU9 Universities in the "Clusters4Future" Competition: "Once again, the TU9 Universities can show that they are innovation engines with their combination of basic and applied research and an active focus on transfer. Technical Universities make a fundamental contribution to the development of solutions for the major social challenges of our time. The projects selected for funding deserve their description as 'flagships of the German government's High-Tech Strategy 2025'."

From an initial 137 submissions, an independent jury of experts had selected 16 projects for a six-month concept phase in 2020 - including nine projects coordinated by TU9 Universities and another project with the participation of a TU9 University. The seven "Clusters4Future" now selected are the winners of the first funding round. Further "Clusters4Future" identified in the second funding round will be announced in the beginning of 2022.

TU9 Universities' "Clusters4Future" selected for funding

M Cube | Technical University of Munich

For the future of mobility in metropolitan regions: M Cube plans to achieve comprehensive mobility innovations in the Munich metropolitan area, taking into account economic, ecological and social aspects and focusing on the following three areas: a) autonomous, shared and electric driving; b) networking of multimodal mobility and c) integrated traffic development on a neighborhood and regional level.

<https://www.clusters4future.de/die-zukunftscluster/mcube>

NeuroSys | RWTH Aachen University

Using neuromorphic hardware, RWTH Aachen University is realizing its own technological vision of artificial intelligence with NeuroSys, which aims to secure a leading position in economics, safety and ethics in a scientific and economic ecosystem.

<https://www.clusters4future.de/die-zukunftscluster/neurosys>

QSens | University of Stuttgart

The cluster QSens does research on innovative quantum sensors, which are to find their way into market and application based on a close cooperation between research and industry.

<https://www.clusters4future.de/die-zukunftscluster/qsens>

SaxoCell | Technische Universität Dresden

With SaxoCell, new production methods and areas of application for “living medicines” are explored in order to reduce costs in the healthcare system through personalized approaches in medicine by means of an economic model with a high value-added potential.

<https://www.clusters4future.de/die-zukunftscluster/saxocell>

Wasserstoff | RWTH Aachen University

The cluster “hydrogen” works on the value chain from production, storage and distribution to utilization in joint research and development activities, to help shape the mobility of the future.

<https://www.clusters4future.de/die-zukunftscluster/wasserstoff>

The cluster **PROXIDRUGS** of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main **with the participation of the Technical University of Darmstadt** was also successful in the competition. PROXIDRUGS is concerned with expanding research in the field of “proximity-induced drugs” which enable the targeted degradation of disease-relevant proteins in order to develop better therapies for oncological, inflammatory, infectious and cardiovascular diseases as well as neurodegenerative diseases.

<https://www.clusters4future.de/die-zukunftscluster/die-konzeptionsphase-der-ersten-wettbewerbs-runde/tools4life>

The innovation networks will receive up to 450 million euros from the federal government in two competition rounds over the next ten years. Industry will activate funding on a similar scale, so that the future clusters can expect a total funding of up to one billion euros. The maximum funding period is nine years, divided into three three-year phases that consecutively build on each other. For each of the three funding phases, a maximum of €5 million is available per cluster and year – with the recipients expected to make an increasing contribution of their own in each phase.

Further information on “Custers4Future” (in German only):

<https://www.bmbf.de/de/zukunftscluster-initiative-9195.html>.

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.