



Press Release

Excellence Strategy of the German Government: TU9 Universities successfully acquired 23 Clusters of Excellence

Berlin, May 22, 2025

The decisions for the next funding phase of the Excellence Strategy of the German federal and state governments were made today. The TU9 Universities are excellently represented among the funded clusters (new or extended): 23 of the approved Clusters of Excellence (33 %) come from TU9 Universities or are being carried out with their participation.

“The successfully acquired cluster applications reflect the research strength of the TU9 Universities. The promotion of international and interdisciplinary cutting-edge research, which acts as a driver of innovation in and beyond its region, is of enormous importance for Germany as a science and business location. In the Clusters of Excellence in particular, our researchers are dedicated to finding solutions to social and global challenges. As Co-Presidents of the TU9 Alliance, we are delighted with our TU9 colleagues about the successes in the Excellence Strategy,” said Prof. Dr. Angela Ittel, President of TU Braunschweig, and Prof. Dr. Peter Middendorf, Rector of the University of Stuttgart.

At the press conference in Bonn, Falko Mohrs, Chair of the Joint Science Conference (GWK), and the Deputy Chair of the GWK, Dr. Dorothee Bär, announced the funding of a total of 70 Clusters of Excellence. The President of the DFG, Prof. Dr. Katja Becker, and the Chairman of the German Council of Science and Humanities (WR), Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wick, explained the selection of the funded projects from the 98 funding proposals submitted. The Clusters of Excellence will be funded from January 1, 2026 for an initial seven years with an annual budget of 539 million euros.

Following today's decision, seven TU9 Universities are eligible to submit a new or renewed application in the second funding line “Universities of Excellence”. The prerequisite for this is that they acquire at least two clusters of excellence (at least three in the case of alliances). The universities now have until November 12, 2025 to submit their applications.

Already successful Universities and university alliances of excellence receive permanent funding, but must undergo an evaluation organized by the WR every seven years to check whether they continue to meet the funding requirements. Since 2019, ten universities and one university alliance have been funded as locations of excellence, including the five of the nine TU9 Universities RWTH Aachen University, TU Berlin (Berlin University Alliance), TU Dresden, KIT and Technical University of Munich.

The following Clusters of Excellence (new or continued) are to be established at or with the involvement of TU9 Universities:

One applicant university (alphabetically by location)	Title
RWTH Aachen University	The Integrated Fuel & Chemical Science Center - Adaptive Umwandlungssysteme für erneuerbare Energieträger und Chemikalien
Technical University of Darmstadt	Vernünftige Künstliche Intelligenz
TUD Dresden University of Technology	Physik des Lebens: Die dynamische Organisation lebender Materie (PoL)

TUD Dresden University of Technology	Verantwortungsvolle Elektronik im Zeitalter des Klimawandels
TUD Dresden University of Technology	Zentrum für taktiles Internet mit Mensch-Maschine- Interaktion (CeTI)
Leibniz University Hannover	PhoenixD: Optik & Photonik - Dimensionenübergreifende Innovation
Technical University of Munich	TransforM: Münchner Zentrum für Transformative Technologien und gesellschaftlichen Wandel
University of Stuttgart	Integratives computerbasiertes Planen und Bauen für eine transformative Architektur

**Two applicant universities
(alphabetically by location)**

	Title
RWTH Aachen University TUD Dresden University of Technology	CARE: Klimaneutrales und ressourceneffizientes Bauen
Technische Universität Braunschweig Leibniz University Hannover	QuantumFrontiers: Die Grenzen des Messbaren verschieben
TUD Dresden University of Technology Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg	Komplexität, Topologie und Dynamik in Quantenmaterialien (ctd.qmat)
Heidelberg University Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	3D Designer Materialien
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) Technical University of Munich	Biosystem-Design München (BioSysteM)
LMU Technical University of Munich	e-conversion 2.0
LMU Technical University of Munich	Münchner Zentrum für Quantenwissenschaft und -technologie
LMU Technical University of Munich	Munich Cluster for Systems Neurology (SyNergy)
LMU Technical University of Munich	ORIGINS: Vom Ursprung des Universums bis zu den ersten Bausteinen des Lebens

**Three applicant universities
(alphabetically by location)**

	Title
RWTH Aachen University University of Bonn University of Cologne	Materie und Licht für Quanteninformation (ML4Q)
Freie Universität Berlin Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin Technische Universität Berlin	MATH+: Berlin Mathematics Research Center
Technical University of Darmstadt Justus Liebig University Gießen University of Marburg	Adaptives Verhalten
Justus Liebig University Gießen Karlsruhe Institute of Technology Ulm University	Post-Lithium Energy Storage (POLiS)
Leibniz University Hannover Medizinische Hochschule Hannover Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg	Hearing4all.connects: Innovative Technologien für die Hörgesundheit - vom Ohr zum Gehirn zur Gesellschaft

LMU Technical University of Munich Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg	Cluster für Nukleinsäureforschung und -technologien - NUCLEATE
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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, TUD Dresden University of Technology, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

TU9 Universities take special responsibility for the productive and innovative strength of our society and economy. We help shape the future by contributing to digitization and the energy and sustainability transition, to name a few. To this end, we combine our specific expertise in basic research, especially in the natural sciences and engineering, with applied research and innovation. TU9 Universities enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions. 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 as a location of science and innovation.