

11.12.2009

## Six universities of applied sciences found a national Alliance of Universities of Applied Sciences in Darmstadt

**Darmstadt / Germany. Six German universities of applied sciences have today formed the national Alliance of Universities of Applied Sciences (HAWtech). The universities concerned are hoping to work closely together, especially in the fields of training, research, technology transfer, advanced training and university management; to present a united public image and to create a united strategic position. They share a focus on technical subjects, a strong practical orientation and an excellent reputation. They have a combined student body of 47,000 students. At the signing ceremony at the University of Darmstadt, the top university administrators of the founding members were present: Prof. Dr. Marcus Baumann, Rector of Aachen University of Applied Sciences; Prof. Dr. Michael Heine, President of the Berlin University of Technology and Economics; Prof. Dr. Maria Overbeck-Larisch, President of the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hannes Neumann, Rector of the Dresden University of Technology and Economics; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernhard Schwarz, Rector of the Esslingen University of Applied Sciences and Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Meisel, Rector of the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences.**

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President Prof. Dr. Maria Overbeck-Larisch was the initiator of the Alliance of Universities: „Germany’s economy is threatened by a lack of specialists; the demands on university graduates are growing continuously. This means that universities must set the right focuses, think strategically together and participate in important social decision-making. The Alliance of Universities is conceived as a competent contact partner for politics, the economy and the media, especially in the core subjects of mathematics, computer technology, the natural sciences and technology.“

The Alliance will be publicly represented by an executive board of two members. In the middle of October, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernhard Schwarz (Esslingen) was elected as its speaker. He will be deputised by Prof. Dr. Michael Heine (Berlin). They will both hold these positions for two years. At general meetings, the top administrators will strive to reach their resolutions amicably. Further, working parties on various topics have already been established. The circle of Alliance members is in principle open. After the first few formative months, further technically oriented universities with an excellent reputation may be admitted into the Alliance.

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Bernhard Schwarz, Rector of the Esslingen University of Applied Sciences: „The universities of applied sciences which are members of the Alliance, and which are highly ranked in the national ranking system, are hoping to achieve, among other things, a strong brand presence by means of multi-faceted co-working. The Esslingen University of Applied Sciences is convinced that working together nationally with strong partner universities has enormous potential for the further development of existing strengths as well as for establishing new fields of work.”

To coordinate co-working, contact with the press and public relations work, further marketing developments as well as cooperative projects, the universities have established an Alliance office at the Esslingen University of Applied Sciences. The contact person there is Britta Magenau. (For contact information see the margin.)

This year the Alliance universities have already come closer at various levels. Alongside talks at top administrative levels, the chancellors have already had an initial meeting to discuss specialist questions. In the middle of October, representatives from the universities concerned met at the Berlin University for Technology and Economics in three working groups, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Technology and International Affairs, where they held preliminary discussions on the directions their co-working should take. These included a demand for student mobility through cooperatively organised exchange semesters, joint initiatives abroad or the development of a degree program spanning different universities. These ideas will be made concrete today at the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences.

Prof. Dr. Michael Heine, President of the Berlin University for Technology and Economics said: „The Alliance is an ideal forum for the establishment of benchmarks in a trusting environment. This is important for all participants, especially now, in times of escalating competitiveness among universities. We need to extend our horizons at all levels and we will be taking part in extensive talks, whether they are concerned with financial controlling, the development of degree programs which span different universities or joint research activities.”

Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Meisel, Rector of the Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences said: „The Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences is looking forward to working closely with the members of the Alliance of Universities of Applied Sciences. All the universities concerned have been highly successful until now and will continue to strengthen and develop their position together within the Alliance. This also includes international activities. Joint summer schools for foreign students, a joint presence at international recruiting events, participation in advertising for DAAD-support programmes, and the founding of foreign universities under the umbrella of the Alliance of Universities of Applied Sciences – are these are conceivable. However, new national and international perspectives are also opening in the area of applied research.“

Prof. Dr. Marcus Baumann, Rector of the Aachen University of Applied Sciences:

„Mechanical engineering is one of the most important fields of production in Germany and a key driver in technical innovation. Qualified and motivated engineers have great importance for maintaining the excellent technical position held by the German economy. In my opinion, energy conversion technologies, energy efficiency, and research and development of renewable energy sources will become one of the most important topics in the coming decades. Engineers trained in mechanical engineering degree programs will be in a position to help create a new world and make a contribution to reducing CO2 emissions and damage to the environment by developing new and improved energy conversion processes.“

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Hannes Neumann, Rector of the Dresden University of Technology and Economics: „I believe that the planned joint degree program in electrical engineering is one of the first examples of using synergy effects in training. In this way, we are giving the students the chance to study at another university with full recognition of their examination performance. Further projects, for example, student exchanges, help students to acquire additional competences.“

## **A short profile of the universities involved in the Alliance of Universities of Applied Sciences**

### **Aachen University of Applied Sciences**

The Aachen University of Applied Sciences, founded in 1971, provides its 9,000 students with first-class training in modern and future-oriented professions. Thanks to the close relationships of the over 200 teaching staff to professional practice, and a further 200 members of staff involved in training and research, the university can guarantee training which is vocationally oriented and scientifically based. Cooperation with regional and international companies as well as renowned research facilities speak for the high quality of the teaching. Currently, people interested in studying at the university can choose from 56 degree programs in the fields of engineering sciences, economic sciences, and organisation.

In addition, the university offers a growing number of cooperative doctoral programs.

*[www.fh-aachen.de](http://www.fh-aachen.de)*

### **Berlin University of Technology and Economics**

Varied and innovative – these two adjectives characterised the Berlin University of Technology and Economics. With around 10,000 students, 270 lecturing staff, 700 part-time lecturers and 60 Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in the areas of technology, informatics, economics, culture and organisation, it is one of Germany's medium-sized universities. In the field of technology, the range of subjects extends from construction engineering through mechanical engineering and electrical engineering to environmental technologies/regenerative energy. The Berlin University of Technology and Economics has received many awards for innovation.

*[www.htw-berlin.de](http://www.htw-berlin.de)*

### **Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences**

With its around 11,400 students and forty degree programs, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences is one of the largest universities of applied sciences in Germany. Its teaching and research capacity ranges from engineering sciences, natural sciences and mathematics, information sciences and informatics through economics and society to architecture, the media and design. Quality characteristics of the university include good student mentoring and a clear practical orientation during the programs of study. Various independent studies have regularly confirmed the good reputation of its graduates.

*[www.h-da.de](http://www.h-da.de)*

### **Dresden University of Technology and Economics**

The Dresden University of Technology and Economics was founded in 1992. It is the second largest university of the Saxon capital. Technology, economics, organisation and ‚green‘ studies are the four pillars on which the range of more than 30 degree programs rests. With eight faculties, 180 lecturing staff and a little over 5,000 students, the university is large enough to successfully practice networking between different disciplines with impressive synergy effects. Numerous modern, well-equipped laboratories, the computer system which is connected to world-wide communication systems, the newly organised library and the languages centre as well as a compulsory practical semester for students in technical degree programs guarantee the practical focus of the studies.

*[www.htw-dresden.de](http://www.htw-dresden.de)*

### **Esslingen University of Applied Sciences**

Engineering, economics and management, social and nursing sciences make up the pillars of teaching at the Esslingen University of Applied Sciences. In the ranking systems of several economic magazines and the ZEIT student guide, it is to be found among the top ten universities in Germany. Around 5,600 students are enrolled in eleven faculties in 23 Bachelor's and twelve Master's degree programs. The close networking between the university with the economy and industrial and commercial organisations ensures a high degree of practical orientation. In three locations in Esslingen city centre, on the hilltop campus and in Göppingen, students have access to over 50 highly modern laboratories.

*[www.hs-esslingen.de](http://www.hs-esslingen.de)*

### **Karlsruhe University of Technology and Economics**

With around 6,300 students, the Karlsruhe University of Technology and Economics is the largest university in Baden-Württemberg and offers a varied spectrum of degree programs in technical and engineering sciences, information, economic and construction disciplines. Its students are well prepared for their future professional careers due to its special emphasis on practically oriented university training. The advantages of studying at the Karlsruhe University of Technology and Economics include the vocationally oriented university training, intensive mentoring, international orientation, independent and high quality training and excellent career prospects. At all times there is an emphasis on the high quality of the teaching: this has been attested to several times in national and renowned ranking systems.

*[www.hs-karlsruhe.de](http://www.hs-karlsruhe.de)*