

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Top-level research from Germany goes international** IKV receives funding from BMBF for international research

Aachen, June 2015 – The Institute of Plastics Processing (IKV) in Industry and the Skilled Crafts at RWTH Aachen University has received an award for its internationalisation initiative "Global network for innovative plastic materials and processes". Professor Dr. Johanna Wanka, Germany's Minister of Education and Research, presented the award on June 30, 2015, in Berlin during the BMBF's 3<sup>rd</sup> International Cluster Conference. Prior to that, the IKV initiative had been examined by an independent committee of experts and recommended for funding by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, BMBF.

Worldwide, Germany is in second place in the export of research-intensive goods, ahead of the United States and Japan but behind China. To be able to retain this outstanding position, the German government is strengthening the strategic internationalisation of top-level research. As part of the newly launched initiative "Internationalisation of leading-edge clusters, forward-looking projects and comparable networks", the German Ministry of Research will, with immediate effect, support projects from Germany for the international networking of particularly innovative regions with up to four million euros in each case.

"We want Germany to remain a world leader in the export of high-tech goods. For this reason, we support the global networking of science and industry. The new initiative will help companies, universities and research institutes to participate in international innovation processes and to be actively involved in designing them," said the Federal Research Minister in Berlin.

The internationalisation of clusters and networks is part of the new high-tech strategy with which the German government aims to turn ideas into innovations and establish links between science and industry, research and society. At the same time, it is part of the BMBF's "International cooperation" action plan.

IKV took part in the BMBF competition because it aims to further expand its internationalisation strategy. Apart from the globally oriented networking of the mainly small and medium-sized cluster members in global research projects, it also includes greater intercultural training of upcoming specialists in the plastics segment.

"IKV, as the oldest cluster of the plastics scene, is strengthening its international activities and will thus accompany its 250 member companies on the road to greater internationalisation. We are delighted that the BMBF considers these activities to be so valuable and supports them," said Professor Christian Hopmann, head of IKV, commenting on the award and the generous backing of the BMBF.

Source: News release from BMBF of June 9, 2015

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

### About IKV

IKV, the Institute of Plastics Processing at RWTH Aachen University, is Europe-wide the biggest research and education institute engaged in the field of plastics processing enjoying outstanding reputation. More than 300 staff are employed in finding solutions to problems connected with processing, materials technology and part design in the plastics and rubber industries. IKV's close contacts with industry and science, together with its outstanding facilities, enable cutting-edge research in plastics technology and ensure that students benefit from a comprehensive, practically oriented course of study. Plastics engineering graduates from IKV are thus sought-after experts in industry. In organisational terms, IKV is divided up into the four specialist departments of Injection Moulding, Extrusion and Rubber Technology, Part Design and Materials Technology, and Composites and Polyurethane Technology. The Institute also takes in the Centre for Analysis and Testing of Plastics, and the Training and Further Education department. IKV is run by an Association of Sponsors, which currently has a membership of more than 230 plastics companies from all over the world. Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann is Head of the Institute and Managing Director of the Association of Sponsors. He also holds the Chair of Plastics Processing at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at RWTH Aachen University.

### Contact:

Institut für Kunststoffverarbeitung (IKV) in  
Industrie und Handwerk an der RWTH Aachen  
Dipl.-Ing. Torben Fischer  
Chief engineer  
Pontstr. 49  
52062 Aachen, Germany  
Phone: +49 (0) 241 80-93823  
Fax: +49 (0) 241 80-92262  
E-mail: torben.fischer@ikv.rwth-aachen.de

### Press contact:

Institut für Kunststoffverarbeitung (IKV)  
in Industrie und Handwerk an der RWTH Aachen  
Ulla Köhne  
Head of public relations  
Pontstr. 49  
52062 Aachen  
Phone: +49 (0) 241 80-96631  
Fax: +49 (0) 241 80-92660  
E-Mail: ulla.koehne@ikv.rwth-aachen.de



Presentation of the award to successful applications for the BMBF initiative "Internationalisation of leading-edge clusters, forward-looking projects, and comparable networks" at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Cluster Conference of the BMBF in Berlin (photo: BMBF).