German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence

Company Profile

Intelligent Solutions for the Knowledge Society

The German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) was founded in 1988 as a non-profit public-private partnership. It has research facilities in Kaiserslautern, Saarbrücken and Bremen, a project office in Berlin, a Laboratory in Niedersachsen and a branch office in St. Wendel. In the field of innovative commercial software technology using Artificial Intelligence, DFKI is the leading research center in Germany.

Based on application oriented basic research, DFKI develops product functions, prototypes and patentable solutions in the field of information and communication technology. Research and development projects are conducted in nineteen research departments and research groups, eight competence centers and eight living labs. Funding is received from government agencies like the European Union, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), the German Federal States and the German Research Foundation (DFG), as well as from cooperation with industrial partners. Twice a year, a committee of internationally renowned experts (Scientific Advisory Board) audits the progress and results of state-funded projects. In addition, BMBF evaluates DFKI regularly. The most recent assessment was again very successfully concluded in 2016.

Apart from the state governments of Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and Bremen, numerous renowned German and international high-tech companies from a wide range of industrial sectors are represented on the DFKI supervisory board. The DFKI model of a non-profit public-private partnership (ppp) is nationally and internationally considered a blueprint for corporate structure in the field of top-level research.

DFKI is actively involved in numerous organizations representing and continuously advancing Germany as an excellent location for cutting-edge research and technology. Far beyond the country’s borders DFKI enjoys an excellent reputation for its academic training of young scientists. At present, 588 highly qualified researchers, administrators and 460 graduate students from more than 65 countries are contributing to more than 250 DFKI research projects. DFKI serves as a stepping stone to leading positions in industry and successful careers as founders of spin-off companies. Over the years, more than 140 staff members have been appointed professors at universities in Germany and abroad.

Intelligent Solutions for the Knowledge Society

Established
1988, non-profit organization (public-private partnership)

Executive Board
▷ Prof. Dr. Jana Koehler, CEO
▷ Dr. Walter Olthoff, CFO

Supervisory Board
▷ Prof. Dr. h.c. Hans-Albert Aukes, Chair
▷ Dr. Susanne Reichrath, Representative of Saarland’s Minister President for Higher Education, Science and Technology, Vice Chair

Locations
Kaiserslautern (registered office), Saarbrücken, Bremen, Berlin (project office), Niedersachsen (Laboratory) and a further operating site in St. Wendel

Shareholders
Accenture, Airbus Group, BMW AG, CLAAS KGaA mbH, Daimler AG, Deutsche Börse AG, Deutsche Messe AG, Deutsche Telekom AG, Empolis Information Management GmbH, Fraunhofer Gesellschaft e.V., Google Inc., HARTING AG & Co. KG, Intel Corporation, John Deere GmbH & Co. KG, KIBG GmbH, Microsoft Deutschland GmbH, Nuance Communications Deutschland GmbH, RICOH Company Ltd., Robert Bosch GmbH, SAP SE, Software AG, University of Kaiserslautern, Bremen University, Saarland University, Volkswagen AG, VSE AG

Equity Holding
GraphicsMedia.net GmbH, Kaiserslautern – Ground Truth Robotics GmbH, Bremen

Key Figures
▷ Annual Budget 2018: € 48.8 million
▷ Total Assets 2018: € 114.6 million
▷ Professional staff: 588
▷ Graduate student staff: 460

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Research & Development

Research Departments and Research Groups

Kaiserslautern Site:
- Prof. Dr. Prof. h.c. Andreas Dengel: Smart Data & Knowledge Services
- Prof. Dr. Paul Lukowicz: Embedded Intelligence
- Prof. Dr. Martin Ruskowski: Innovative Factory Systems
- Prof. Dr. Hans Schotten: Intelligent Networks
- Prof. Dr. Didier Stricker: Augmented Vision

Saarbrücken Site:
- Prof. Dr. Josef van Genabith: Multilinguality and Language Technology
- Prof. Dr. Antonio Krüger: Cognitive Assistants
- Prof. Dr. Peter Loos: Institute for Information Systems
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Maalß: Smart Service Engineering
- Prof. Dr. Philipp Slusallek: Agents and Simulated Reality

Bremen Site:
- Prof. Dr. Rolf Drechsler: Cyber-Physical Systems
- Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Frank Kirchner: Robotics Innovation Center (RIC)

Project Office Berlin:
- Prof. Dr. Christoph Igel: Educational Technology Lab
- Prof. Dr. Gesche Joost: Interactive Textiles
- Prof. Dr. Volker Markl: Intelligent Analytics for Massive Data
- Prof. Dr. Sebastian Möller: Speech and Language Technology

Laboratory Niedersachsen:
- Osnabrück:
  - Prof. Dr. Joachim Hertzberg: Plan-Based Robot Control
  - Prof. Dr. Oliver Thomas: Smart Enterprise Engineering
- Oldenburg:
  - Prof. Dr. Oliver Zielinski: Marine Perception

Living Labs
Testing, evaluation, and demonstration of innovative technologies in comprehensive application scenarios:
- Advanced Driver Assistance Systems Living Lab, Bremen
- Ambient Assisted Living Lab, Immersive Quantified Learning Lab (IQL), Innovative Retail Lab, Robotics Exploration Lab, Smart City Living Lab, SmartFactory-KL, Smart Office Space Living Lab

Competence Centers
Coordination of research activities in particular areas:
- Ambient Assisted Living, Autonomous Driving, Deep Learning, Emergency Response and Recovery Management, Safe and Secure Systems, Smart Agriculture Technologies, Wearable AI

Scientific Excellence and Transfer

International Scientific Advisory Board
Bi-annual evaluation of publically funded projects:
- Prof. Dr. Andreas Butz, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Chairman

Leading-Edge Research
DFKI is the only German institute for computer science to participate in each of the three leading-edge research clusters:
- Cluster of Excellence “Multimodal Computing and Interaction” funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)
- Leading-Edge Cluster “Software Innovations for the Digital Enterprise” funded by BMBF
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT Digital & EIT Manufacturing)

Research Associations
Campus Automatisierung und Digitalisierung, FIWARE, Science & Innovation Alliance Kaiserslautern and others

Promoting Young Talent
DFKI is a founding member and core partner of the Software Campus to promote managerial talent in the IT industry

Academic Chairs
More than 140 former staff members have been appointed professors at universities in Germany and abroad

Spin-offs
93 spin-off companies have created more than 2,500 highly skilled jobs

Service
CertLab
Certified testing laboratory for IT security. For the promotion of credible and trustworthy Artificial Intelligence.

Committees and Academies
DFKI is represented by its scientific directors on numerous committees and academies:

Scientific and Government Committees
Big Data Value Association, Brazilian Institute of Robotics (BIR),Center of Innovation Program of the Japanese Ministry of Education (COI), Feldafinger Kreis, Informations-technische Gesellschaft (ITG), Management Board of the International Computer Science Institute in Berkeley, Münchner Kreis, National Institute of Informatics (NII, Tokio), Präsidium des Verbandes der Elektrotechnik Elektronik Informationstechnik e.V. (VDE), Program Committee of the National Aeronautics and Space Research Centre DLR, Steering Committee of the German Informatics Society (GI) and others

Business Committees
Digital Stationery Consortium, Flexible Factory Partner Alliance (FFPA), 5G Alliance for Connected Industries and Automation (5G-ACIA) and others

Scientific Academies
Academy of Sciences and Literature, Berlin-Brandenburg, Academy of Sciences, European Academy of Sciences, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, National Academy of Science and Engineering, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and others