

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASEMay 31, 2019 || Page 1 | 3

Official ceremony and first convention: Medical Valley Center in Bamberg opens its doors

Erlangen/Bamberg: An official ceremony was held on Friday, May 31, to mark the opening of the Medical Valley Center in Bamberg. During the ceremony, Bavaria's Minister of Economic Affairs Hubert Aiwanger announced that funding was being awarded to a total of four innovation projects, two of which were from Fraunhofer IIS. At the Parkinson symposium held immediately after the ceremony as part of the center's first convention, a high-profile discussion panel rounded off the event.

After being welcomed by Mayor of Bamberg Andreas Starke and Chairman of Medical Valley EMN Prof. Erich R. Reinhardt, both Mr. Aiwanger and Bavaria's Minister of Health Melanie Huml gave opening speeches, during which the Minister of Economic Affairs announced funding notifications for four innovation projects. These included Mobile Health Lab and Medical Valley Digital Health Application Center, both of which have their roots in Fraunhofer IIS. The two outfits explore digital solutions for cutting-edge medicine and are driving telemedical care forward by bridging the gap between patients and physicians.

Mobile Health Lab in Bamberg is using telemedicine to open up access to healthcare from the home. It is working on a generic IT platform for telemedicine, the "Digital Patient Manager." Its aim is to establish a network that connects service providers across all sectors and to create a decentralized infrastructure for medical communication. The system enables the automatic collection of individual patient data and its exchange between users and their healthcare provider (physician, hospital, therapist), with patients themselves determining who has access to which parts of their data. Likewise, healthcare providers can make all relevant information available to patients using the same system. The generic platform can be adapted to the specific needs of healthcare providers and can also be licensed by them. This will accelerate market penetration and help connect the service providers, making completely new telemedical healthcare services possible.

Medical Valley Digital Health Application Center is also based in Bamberg. Designed to run over five years, the project is intended to pave the way for and also accompany new innovations and products in medical engineering, besides supporting companies as they prepare for the digital medicine of tomorrow. The project integrates ideas into medical care and research and monitors patient-centered development and validation

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studies. It aims to make technical solutions accessible to everyone in a newly evolving digital health ecosystem.

PRESS RELEASE

May 31, 2019 || Page 2 | 3

First convention and discussion panel

After the official ceremony, the center held its first convention, which was kicked off by Prof. Jochen Klucken (Medical Valley Digital Health Application Center) and Christian Weigand (Mobile Health Lab), among others. The two Fraunhofer groups held one of the three symposia under the banner of Parkinson's care of the future.

Following various lectures on the disease, a discussion panel featuring renowned names such as Prof. Albert Heuberger (Director of Fraunhofer IIS) and Prof. Joachim Hornegger (President of the FAU) alongside Minister of Health Ms. Huml rounded off the symposium with the topic "What can we do together to actively harness the opportunities posed by digitalization?".

You can find out more about Mobile Health Lab at https://www.iis.fraunhofer.de/en/ff/sse/mobile_health_lab.html.



Handed over by Bavaria's Minister of Economic Affairs Hubert Aiwanger, Christian Weigand (Mobile Health Lab) accepted the funding notification in the presence of Prof. Erich R. Reinhardt (Chairman of Medical Valley EMN), Melanie Huml (Bavarian Minister of Health), Prof. Jochen Klucken (Medical Valley Digital Health Application Center) and Prof. Albert Heuberger (Director of Fraunhofer IIS). © Fraunhofer IIS/Peter Roggenthin

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS IIS

PRESS RELEASEMay 31, 2019 || Page 3 | 3

Prof. Jochen Klucken also accepted a funding notification on behalf of Medical Valley Digital Health Application Center GmbH. © Fraunhofer IIS/Peter Roggenthin

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the leading organization for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 72 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of more than 26,600, who work with an annual research budget totaling more than 2.6 billion euros.

The **Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS** is one of the world's leading application-oriented research institutions for microelectronic and IT system solutions and services. It is the largest of all Fraunhofer Institutes. Research at Fraunhofer IIS revolves around two guiding topics: In the area of **"Audio and Media Technologies"**, the institute has been shaping the digitalization of media for more than 30 years now. Fraunhofer IIS was instrumental in the development of mp3 and AAC and played a significant role in the digitalization of the cinema. Current developments are opening up whole new sound worlds and are being used in virtual reality, automotive sound systems, mobile telephony, streaming and broadcasting.

In the context of **"cognitive sensor technologies"**, the institute researches technologies for sensor technology, data transmission technology, data analysis methods and the exploitation of data as part of data-driven services and their accompanying business models. This adds a cognitive component to the function of the conventional "smart" sensor.

Nearly 1050 employees conduct contract research for industry, the service sector and public authorities. Founded in 1985 in Erlangen, Fraunhofer IIS has now 15 locations in 11 cities: Erlangen (headquarters), Nuremberg, Fürth, Dresden, further in Bamberg, Waischenfeld, Coburg, Würzburg, Ilmenau, Deggendorf and Passau. The budget of 165 million euros is mainly financed by projects. 26 percent of the budget is subsidized by federal and state funds.

Detailed information on: www.iis.fraunhofer.de/en