

Press release

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG



€800,000 for research into Industry 4.0

Impetus for a digital future – Rittal endows a chair for Industry 4.0

Forging technological progress in the Middle Hesse region of Germany is a top priority for Rittal. This is why the world's leading provider of industrial enclosures and climate control systems is now co-endowing a chair to focus research into Industry 4.0 at Mittelhessen University of Applied Sciences. Eight companies are investing a total of €800,000 over five years to promote practice-based research and teaching in this field.

Herborn, 14. Juli 2017 – How is digitalisation changing industry? What challenges does it present? And what opportunities does the future-focused concept of Industry 4.0 unleash? These are just some of the key questions that an endowed chair at Mittelhessen University of Applied Sciences (THM) will be investigating from now on, thanks to special funding provided by Rittal and seven other companies in the region. A total of €800,000 are to be ploughed into five years of research into Industry 4.0 and digitisation. The President of Mittelhessen University of Applied Sciences, Professor Matthias Willems, says this is impressive evidence of the commitment that the region's top companies show to the THM.

The paperwork has now been signed by the companies' representatives, including Dr Thomas Steffen, Managing Director Research and Development at Rittal, who says: "The industrial environment is continuously changing in the direction of Industry 4.0. This leaves many questions unanswered, which the new chair at THM will be investigating."

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The President of the THM has emphasised that the university is dedicated to preparing students for the digital revolution and the changes this will bring in their fields of work. He describes the aim of this research as to generate important impetus for local SMEs on their journey into the digital future. The institute's plans to focus research into Industry 4.0 form part of this drive. Rittal is supporting this initiative with the aim of tightening the links between industry and science.

The Friedhelm Loh Group has now been collaborating with the THM for more than 15 years through its involvement in the StudiumPlus programme. "We are highly committed to fostering up-and-coming talent," says Dr Steffen, "as these young people will help us to forge our success in the future."

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Captions



Firma Dateiname.jpg: Rittal is one of a group of companies now investing a total of €800,000 over five years to promote practice-based research and teaching. The endowed chair will focus on Industry 4.0.

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About Rittal

Rittal, headquartered in Herborn, Germany, is a leading global provider of solutions for industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure, as well as software and services. Systems made by Rittal can be found in more than 90 percent of all global branches of industry, including mechanical and plant engineering, food and beverage production and in IT and telecommunications.

The wide range of products from the global market leader includes configurable enclosures, whose data is available throughout the entire production process. Intelligent Rittal cooling solutions with up to 75 percent lower energy and CO₂ consumption can communicate with the production environment and enable predictive maintenance and service concepts. Innovative IT solutions ranging from IT racks and modular data centres through to edge and hyperscale computing solutions all form part of the portfolio.

Leading software providers Eplan and Cideon complement the value chain, providing interdisciplinary engineering solutions, while Rittal Automation Systems offer automation systems for switchgear construction. Rittal delivers within 24 hours in Germany – precisely as needed, flexibly and efficiently.

Founded in Herborn in 1961 and still run by its owner, Rittal is the largest company in the Friedhelm Loh Group. The Friedhelm Loh Group operates worldwide with 18 production sites and 80 international subsidiaries. The entire group employs more than 11,300 people and generated revenues of around €2.2 billion in 2016. In 2017, it was named one of Germany's leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the ninth year running. Within the scope of a Germany-wide survey, Focus Money magazine and the Deutschland Test organisation identified the Friedhelm Loh Group as one of the nation's best providers of vocational training for the second time in 2017.

For more information, visit www.ittal.com and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.