

## **Two New Milestones Reached on RWTH Aachen Campus**

### **Official Opening of the Production Engineering Cluster and the RWTH Business School**

Aachen, May 18, 2017 – Today, Dr. Walther Pelzer (Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW)), Dr. Oliver Schumy (CEO of IMMOFINANZ), Prof. Günther Schuh (Director of the Production Engineering Cluster), Prof. Frank Piller (Founding Dean of the RWTH Business School), Dr. Bernd Bohr (Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors) and Prof. Malte Brettel (Vice-Rector for Industry and Business Relations of RWTH Aachen University) officially opened the Production Engineering Cluster and the RWTH Business School on RWTH Aachen Campus at an event moderated by Prof. Bernd Mathieu (Zeitungsverlag Aachen). Guests from academia, industry and politics attended the opening talk. The opening celebrations were a program highlight of the Aachen Machine Tool Colloquium (AWK) 2017, which was attended by more than 1,000 engineering experts.

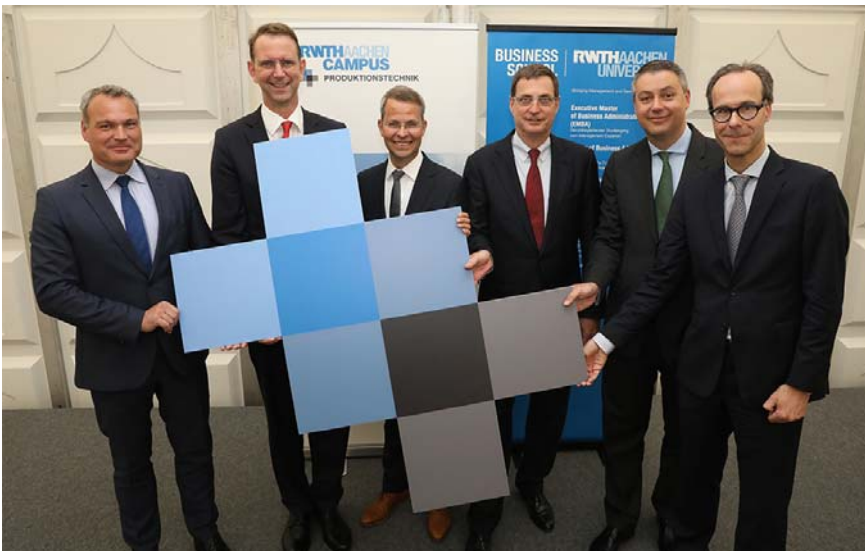
"Aachen and RWTH Aachen are among the most important research and development locations in the area of production engineering – nationally as well as internationally. This is where new concepts for a globally competitive production engineering of the future will be created and brought to life", says Dr. Walther Pelzer of the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research NRW. "I am excited to take part in the official inauguration of the Production Engineering Cluster and the RWTH Business School here today, which are two further key milestones for this location."

"The cluster is set to become one of the largest research laboratories for production engineering and Industrie 4.0 in Europe", explains Cluster Director and Campus Initiator Professor Günther Schuh. "More than 150 businesses are already members of this cluster; up to 800 experts from the sectors of science and technology collaborate in interdisciplinary teams with industry consortia." With a gross footprint of 30,000 square meters, the Production Engineering Cluster is the largest building complex on RWTH Aachen Campus to date. Its research focus is digitally integrated production. Near realtime simulations of complex production chains by way of digital shadowing, self-learning factories made possible by big data usage and utilization concepts for cloud technologies for engineering-based governing of production controls are some of the central issues here. The new electric city car e.GO Life is, for example, one of the successful projects developed in this cluster.

The RWTH Business School, which is located in the Production Engineering Cluster, aims to assist executives to optimally prepare for the challenges of the future. These challenges are the result of increasingly fast technology-driven innovations, which brings radical change to established industries and their process environments. "Managers of tomorrow must understand this development in order to lead their companies safely through technological change", says Founding Dean Professor Frank Piller, whose School of Business and Economics at RWTH Aachen University is responsible for the curriculum content of the new further-education facility. "In order to succeed, our study programs must be flexible enough to adapt to the specific needs of the students as individually as possible." In Aachen, this is achieved via a personalized study course at the interface between technology and management, a concept that is currently unique in Europe.

Dr. Oliver Schumy, CEO at IMMOFINANZ, mentioned in his speech that the building complex is a new and innovative format for the property sector: "The Production Engineering Cluster, which brings together industry and science in close cooperation under one roof, is a showpiece for us as a property investment company. The economic world in particular is characterized by an ongoing adjustment process. New interdisciplinary research landscapes, like the ones here on campus, can help to decisively optimize and accelerate the innovation process."

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Underline: Opening of the Production Engineering Cluster and the RWTH Business School (f.l.t.r.: Dr. Walther Pelzer, Prof. Günther Schuh, Prof. Malte Brettel, Dr. Bernd Bohr, Dr. Oliver Schumy, Prof. Frank Piller)  
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Underline: Production Engineering Cluster: the largest of its kind in Europe  
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### **RWTH Aachen Campus**

RWTH Aachen Campus contributes significantly towards highlighting the research competence available at RWTH University. The project creates a unique symbiosis of science and industry. Here, experts research specifically defined, relevant topics. Long-term areas of research are represented in clusters. These clusters are subdivided into centers, in which interdisciplinary teams and industry consortia work jointly on specific issues of the future and develop visionary solution approaches.

[www.rwth-campus.com](http://www.rwth-campus.com)

### **RWTH Aachen Campus | Production Engineering Cluster**

Professor Günther Schuh, Cluster Director, is pursuing the goal of making companies agile through Industrie 4.0. The focus of the cluster is on product development and its production. Agile industrial companies will be flexible, active, adaptable and self-initiative in the future. The initiators of the Production Engineering Cluster are the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) at RWTH Aachen University, the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology IPT and the Chair of Production Engineering of E-Mobility.

### **RWTH Business School**

The RWTH Business School offers further-education PhD and Master programs as well as certificate courses at the interface between management and technology. The objective is to prepare qualified academics, engineers and economists for leadership positions and challenges of the future. The curriculum is developed in close collaboration with the School of Business and Economics at RWTH. This faculty holds AACSB, ASIIN and FIBAA accreditations. The RWTH Business School is located in the Production Engineering Cluster on RWTH Aachen Campus, one of the largest research landscapes with technology focus in Europe. [www.business-school.rwth-aachen.de](http://www.business-school.rwth-aachen.de)



#### **IMMOFINANZ**

IMMOFINANZ is a commercial real-estate group whose activities are focused on the retail and office segments of seven core markets in Europe: Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Poland. The core business covers the management and development of properties, whereby the STOP SHOP (retail), VIVO! (retail) and myhive (office) brands represent strong focal points that stand for quality and service. The real-estate portfolio has a value of approx. EUR 4.0 billion (excluding Russia) and covers more than 240 properties. IMMOFINANZ is listed on the stock exchanges in Vienna (leading ATX index) and Warsaw. Further Information: <http://www.immofinanz.com>

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