

## Press Release

### UNIPRENEURS Award for TU9 Professors

#### 12 TU9 Professors Honored by BMBF and BMWK for Entrepreneurship

Berlin, September 7, 2023

UNIPRENEURS, the initiative to strengthen spin-offs from universities in Germany, has honored 20 outstanding professors from 700 nominations for promoting entrepreneurship in higher education and research. 12 of the 20 award winners work at TU9 Universities.

The award ceremony was held in Berlin on September 6, 2023 by the Federal Minister of Education and Research, Bettina Stark-Watzinger, and Dr. Anna Christmann, Commissioner of BMWK for the Digital Economy and Start-ups.

"The UNIPRENEURS awards for the professors of TU9 Universities underline the commitment of our universities in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship and show our importance as an engine for vibrant innovation ecosystems," said TU9 President Professor Angela Ittel.

"The disruptive innovations emerging at TU9 Universities emerge from the excellent basic research conducted at our universities. We see the promotion of startups and spin-offs as part of our responsibility for the productive and innovative power of our society and economy," says Professor Tanja Brühl.

The UNIPRENEURS awardees from TU9 Universities are the following:

- Prof. Dr. Thomas Bauernhansl (Institute for Factory Operation and Automation), Fraunhofer IPA/University of Stuttgart
- Prof. Dr. Malte Brettel (Innovation and Entrepreneurship), RWTH Aachen University/WHU Vallendar
- Prof. Dr. Frank Buchholz (Medical Systems Biology), TUD Dresden University of Technology
- Prof. Dr. Klaus Diepold (Digital Technology & Management), Technical University of Munich
- Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gerhard P. Fettweis (Mobile Communications Systems), TUD Dresden University of Technology
- Prof. Dr. Karl Leo (Optoelectronics), TUD Dresden University of Technology
- Prof. Dr. Markus Lienkamp (Automotive Technology), Technical University of Munich
- Prof. Hana Milanov, PhD (Entrepreneurship Research), Technical University of Munich
- Prof. Antonello Monti, PhD (Automation of Complex Power Systems), RWTH Aachen University
- Prof. Dr. Helmut Schönenberger (Entrepreneurship), Technical University of Munich
- Prof. Dr. Reinhard Schomäcker (Chemistry), Technische Universität Berlin
- Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Stork (Information Technology), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

#### About UNIPRENEURS

UNIPRENEURS has set itself the task of promoting entrepreneurship at German universities. In cooperation with partner organizations such as the Donors' Association for the Promotion of Sciences and



Humanities in Germany, the Startup Association, Bitkom and AddedVal.io, UNIPRENEURS was able to launch an initiative that honors top professors for their outstanding achievements in the field of university spin-offs. The UNIPRENEURS award is intended to honor entrepreneurial commitment at universities and to make entrepreneurship more prominent in universities.

### About TU9

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, TUD Dresden University of Technology, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany's position as a location of science and innovation.

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