

# PRESS RELEASE

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## Medical-technical competence center for prosthetics and orthotics established

The Orthopedic University Hospital Heidelberg and Fraunhofer IPA have expanded their long-standing research partnership by jointly founding a competence center. A focus of the international expert groups – »Motion Lab« at the University Hospital, led by Dr. Sebastian Wolf, and the Fraunhofer IPA »Biomechatronic Systems« department headed up by Dr. Urs Schneider – was to investigate, develop and medically improve aids such as orthotics and prosthetics as well as other auxiliary systems for people with restricted mobility.



UniversitätsKlinikum Heidelberg

The cooperation covered research, development and testing of orthopaedic aids. The findings are set to be used in clinical patient treatment. A core issue here is methodological research for evidence-based patient treatment.

Dr. Urs Schneider: »The combination of clinical and metrological experiences creates powerful synergies for questions of the future such as MDR-compliant type documentation approval for orthopaedic aids.« Dr. Sebastian Wolf, who coordinates the competence center together with Urban Daub, Project Leader at Fraunhofer IPA, was delighted: »Patients, medical cost insurers, manufacturers, orthopaedic technology experts, doctors and researchers are all welcome to contribute to the discussion.«

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING AND AUTOMATION IPA



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**Prosthetic Center  
at Heidelberg University  
Hospital (Source: Heidelberg  
University Hospital)**

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With nearly 1000 employees, the **Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA**, Fraunhofer IPA, is one of the largest institutes in the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. It has an annual budget of approximately 63 million euros, of which more than one third derives from industrial projects. The institute's research focus is on organizational and technological aspects of production. We develop, test and implement not only components, devices and methods, but also entire machines and manufacturing plants. Our 14 departments are coordinated via six business units, which together conduct interdisciplinary work with the following industries: automotive, machinery and equipment industry, electronics and microsystems, energy, medical engineering and biotechnology as well as process industry. The research activities of Fraunhofer IPA aim at the economic production of sustainable and personalized products. We regard cyber-physical production processes as topics of the future..