

PRESS RELEASE

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Strategic partnership with Japanese engineering firm Sugino

Expansion of German-Japanese network on research and industrialization of biopolymers

Fraunhofer IPA maintains close partnerships with research institutes and businesses in the Far East. On July 25, 2022, a collaboration with Sugino Machine Limited was officially launched during a symposium.

The Japanese engineering company SUGINO has entered into a strategic partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA. Over the next two years, colleagues from Fraunhofer IPA and Sugino will collaborate on research projects in the Dispersing Technology Center and Center for Particle Technology. The focus will be on industrial processing of biopolymers. Ivica Kolarić, Head of Business Unit Process Industry at Fraunhofer IPA, says: "Sugino has extensive expertise in the manufacturing of pastes and slurries for coating agents and storage technology, as well as in the processing of biopolymers. This cooperation offers the opportunity to bring the research insights gained into application and to implement them profitably. This expertise can also support regional users in particular, for example in the approval and certification of new plants."

Fraunhofer IPA bundles competencies in this area of surface technology in its Dispersing Technology Center. With its comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach, the center covers the entire dispersing technology process chain, from the development of scientific principles to industrial applications. For example, the scientists conduct research into the safety of processes and plants, as well as energy and resource efficiency. Dr. Marc Entenmann, Head of the Dispersing Technology Center, comments: "As a cooperation partner, Sugino is symbiotically supplementing our competencies in the field of surface technology."

In this cooperation project, IPA scientists are assisting Sugino in the development of their applications and offering their support in the design of the overall process, in addition to helping the company make the right choices in terms of materials. This



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means that key aspects such as the degree of automation, energy efficiency and cost-effectiveness are taken into consideration right from the start and are managed over the course of the project.

At the same time, this cooperation project also renews the collaboration between Fraunhofer IPA and the leading Japanese research institute for applied research, the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology Kansai (AIST Kansai). At the opening symposium, key representatives and scientists from AIST spoke about the collaboration, biopolymers and polymer processing.

Further information:

<https://www.ipa.fraunhofer.de/de/zusammenarbeit/industry-on-campus/zentrum-fuer-dispergiertechnik.html>

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Tomoyuki Kishi, Consulate General for Japan in Munich, Dr. Marc Entenmann, Fraunhofer IPA, Naoki Samawura, Sugino Machine Ltd., Prof. Thomas Bauernhansl, Fraunhofer IPA, Claus Mayer, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labor and Tourism of Baden-Württemberg, Dr. Michael Hilt, Fraunhofer IPA.

Source: Fraunhofer IPA, Photo: Rainer Bez

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With nearly 1200 employees, the **Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation**, Fraunhofer IPA, is one of the largest institutes in the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. The total budget amounts to € 82 million. 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 19 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.