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Press release

Rheinland-Pfälzische Technische Universität Kaiserslautern-Landau
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Hannover Messe 2025: Project "KI4KMU-RLP" brings expertise for sustainable AI innovations to manufacturing companies

Artificial intelligence (AI) holds enormous potential in production. Methods such as machine learning, pattern recognition, and generative systems can derive new insights from production data and measurements, identify outliers and optimization opportunities, and present complex relationships at a glance. A research team from Kaiserslautern, which combines the AI expertise of four research institutions, now aims to bring this know-how to small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) in Rhineland-Palatinate. Together, they will present their project and participation opportunities from March 31 to April 4 at the Hannover Messe at the Rheinland-Pfalz research booth (Hall 2, Stand C33).

The project "KI4KMU-RLP," funded by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Transport, Agriculture, and Viticulture of Rhineland-Palatinate, bridges the gap between research and industry. To this end, the Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Production Systems at the RPTU University Kaiserslautern-Landau collaborates with the Fraunhofer Institutes for Experimental Software Engineering IESE and for Industrial Mathematics ITWM, as well as the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI). "The key issue is that SME often encounter difficulties when applying the latest AI technologies and therefore hesitate," explains Marco Hussong, research engineer at the FBK Institute. "They seek to identify the appropriate technologies, understand the necessary prerequisites and skill requirements, assess potential costs, and evaluate the expected economic benefits."

Applications Accepted Until Mid-June

The KI4KMU-RLP research team offers: Manufacturing SME can apply for participation in an AI potential analysis followed by the implementation of selected use cases. Marco Hussong is the contact person for interested companies. He emphasizes: "Many companies already possess extensive digitally available production-related data, which can serve as a valuable foundation for the application of artificial intelligence. These are exactly the types of SME we are looking for to participate in the research project. Other criteria for participation include that the company is based in Rhineland-Palatinate and that the companies are motivated to use AI, or ideally, have already defined possible areas of application." The application phase has started and will run until June 15, 2025.

Support Until the Development of a Demonstrator

How is the project structured? The goal of the project is to conceptualize and implement use cases proposed by manufacturing SME. Therefore, the project is divided into a two-step process. In the first phase, planned to begin in mid-2025, the potential analysis will take place. For the subsequent implementation phase in the second project year (2026), companies that not only meet the basic selection criteria but also present their own implementation ideas within the potential analysis phase qualify. Each of them will be professionally supported by one of the four research partners all the way to the implementation of a demonstrator. " The use cases developed over the course of the project are intended to serve as compelling showcases, aimed at encouraging other SME to explore and adopt artificial intelligence

solutions," summarizes Marco Hussong.

Questions can be directed at:
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Klaus Dosch, Department of Technology and Innovation, is organizing the presentation of the researchers of the RPTU Kaiserslautern at the fair. He is the contact partner for companies and, among other things, establishes contacts to science. Contact: Klaus Dosch, E-mail: Dosch(at)]rptu.de, Phone: +49 631 205-3001
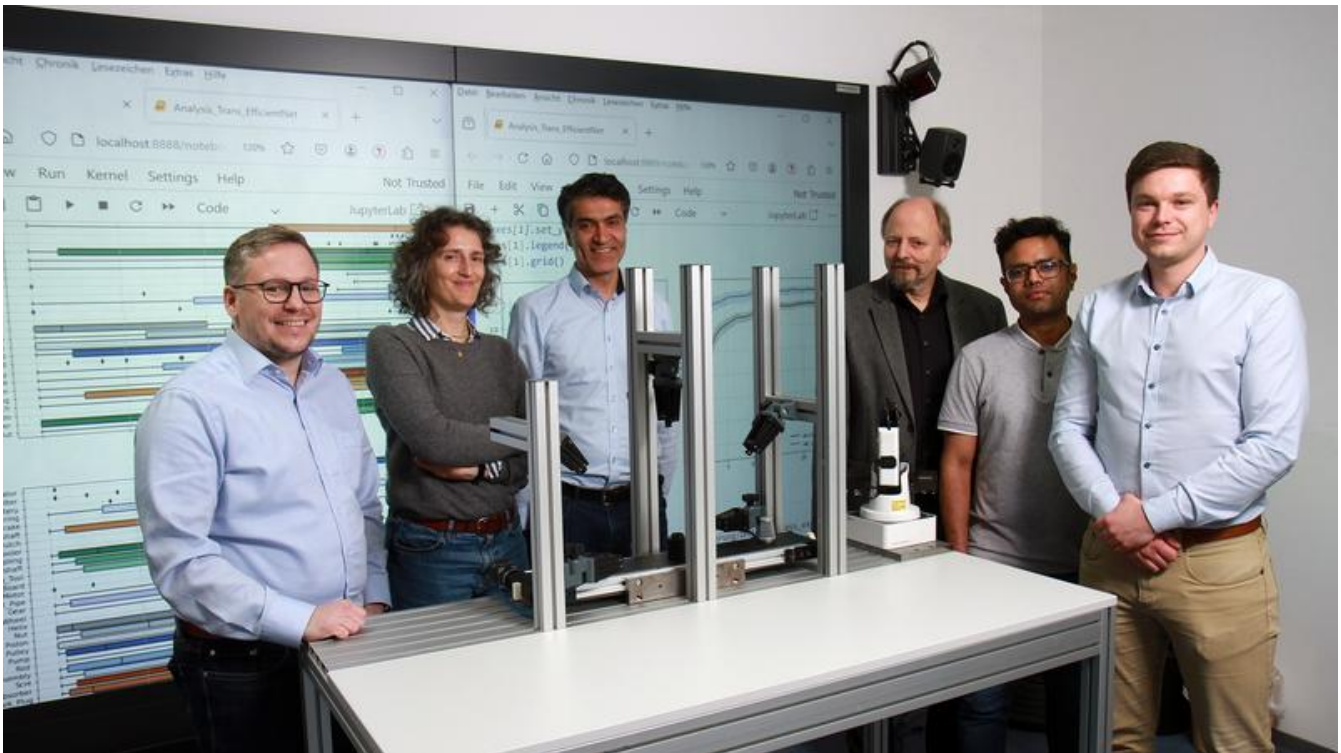
Sven Theobald, Henrike Stephani, Ali Moghiseh, Ansgar Bernardi, Arka Sinha, and Marco Hussong (from left to right), all members of the KI4KMU-RLP research team, gather around a functional demonstrator.
Thomas Koziel
RPTU, Thomas Koziel