

Statement

by the Minister for Science, Continuing Education,
Research and Culture
in the State of Rhineland-Palatinate

Professor Dr. E. Jürgen Zöllner

on the

**Announcement of the First Results under the
Excellence Initiative**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Suspense mounts as we move on to the “clusters of excellence”.

It is my pleasure to announce to you the winners under this second pillar of the excellence competition, as determined this morning by mutual agreement between representatives of science, academia and government.

The following universities have been awarded funding to establish clusters of excellence:

University: Title of the Cluster of Excellence

RWTH Aachen University: Integrative Production Technology for High-Wage Countries

RWTH Aachen University: Ultra High-Speed Mobile Information and Communication

University of Bonn: Mathematics: Foundations, Models, Applications

Dresden University of Technology: From Cells to Tissues to Therapies: Engineering the Cellular Basis of Regeneration

University of Frankfurt am Main: Macromolecular Complexes

University of Gießen: Cardio-Pulmonary System

University of Göttingen: Microscopy at the Nanometer Range

Hannover Medical School: From Regenerative Biology to Reconstructive Therapy

University of Heidelberg: Cellular Networks: From Analysis of Molecular Mechanisms to a Quantitative Understanding of Complex Functions

University of Karlsruhe (TH): Center for Functional Nanostructures

University of Kiel: The Future Ocean

University of Konstanz: Cultural Foundations of Social Integration

University of Munich: Munich Center for Integrated Protein Science

University of Munich: Munich-Centre for Advanced Photonics

University of Munich: Nanosystems Initiative Munich

Technical University of Munich: Cognition for Technical Systems

Technical University of Munich: Origin and Structure of the Universe – The Cluster of Excellence for Fundamental Physics_

Each of these new research centres will receive about 6.5 million euros annually over the next five years. The basic idea behind clusters of excellence is to establish internationally prominent and competitive institutions of research and education, and in doing so, to create the networking and cooperation opportunities researchers need. Clusters of excellence will be integral to a university's strategic and thematic planning and raise its profile significantly. In addition, they will create excellent training and career conditions for young researchers.

A hallmark of clusters of excellence is local networking with both university and non-university partners, possibly including private businesses. You can find out more about the selection criteria in your documentation. As you will see, grants were awarded not only on the basis of scientific quality, but also by taking structures, the promotion of young researchers and a commitment to gender equality into account. Thus clusters of excellence will be key factors for structure building in German academia.