

# PRESS RELEASE

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**PRESS RELEASE**February 03, 2024 || Page 1 | 3

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**Research funds for the Fraunhofer IST**

## Ministry in Lower Saxony provides Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter with 2.5 million euros in funding

**The Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST will receive around 2.5 million euros from the Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur (Lower Saxony ministry for science and culture) for research work at the Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter. On 3rd February 2025, Lower Saxony's Minister for Science and Culture, Falko Mohrs, personally handed over the funding notification at the Salzgitter location.**

"The Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter is a vital cornerstone for the future of climate-neutral industry in Lower Saxony. By fostering close collaboration between science, industry, and regional stakeholders, we're creating a solid foundation to drive the forward-thinking development of hydrogen technologies across the entire value chain and accelerate their practical application. This focused investment not only boosts the region's innovative potential but also plays a pivotal role in advancing the energy transition and sustainable value creation, setting an inspiring example that can resonate well beyond the region," explained Science Minister Mohrs.

The funds from the "zukunft.niedersachsen" program will be used to implement the "Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter Innovation Network", which is being driven forward under the scientific leadership of the Fraunhofer IST in close cooperation with the TU Braunschweig. "The planned research work takes up the program goals of the 'Mission Hydrogen 2030' from the 8th Energy Research Programme of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and is oriented towards the national and Northern German hydrogen strategy," explained Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christoph Herrmann, Institute Director of the Fraunhofer IST and Chairman of the Board of the Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter e.V.

"One particular focus of the planned work is on the further development of innovative hydrogen technologies and their production processes as well as on the elaboration of digital simulation models for holistic value chains in the hydrogen economy of the future," added Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sabrina Zellmer, Deputy Director of the Institute and spokesperson for the joint project. "We will use the acquired knowledge to further develop transfer projects and to implement the results in teaching and learning opportunities."

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**FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR SURFACE ENGINEERING AND THIN FILMS IST**

The entire value chain should thereby be covered, including the establishment of hydrogen supply chains, the decarbonization of industry and neighborhoods, the flexible production of components for fuel cells and electrolyzers, and fuel-cell mobility. The Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter functions hereby as a real laboratory that allows close networking between researchers and users. Michael Gensicke, CFO of the Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter e.V. and Managing Director of Robert Bosch Elektronik GmbH, emphasized: "Through the trusting exchange with various players from research and development, politics and business, the Campus constitutes an important innovation platform for the participating companies, which is unique in its form."

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**PRESS RELEASE**February 03, 2024 || Page 2 | 3

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"The Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter exemplifies the progress that we can achieve through regional cooperation. The challenges of the energy transition can only be mastered locally. Our goal is to convert the transformation into real added value for the region," confirmed Matthias Wunderling-Weilbier, State Secretary in Lower Saxony's Ministry for Regional Development, referring in this context to the accomplishments of the Amt für regionale Landesentwicklung Braunschweig (Braunschweig regional development office) under the leadership of Dr. Ulrike Witt. Mr. Wunderling-Weilbier is Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Wasserstoff Campus, which convened for the first time today.

"Our Wasserstoff Campus is a flagship project with major appeal," enthused Mayor Frank Klingebiel: "With the Wasserstoff Campus, situated at Lower Saxony's third-largest industrial location, we are taking a significant step towards a sustainable future. New training and further-education opportunities are being created here and, as a result, a good basis for future-proof jobs in the hydrogen economy. This is a substantial gain for our city and the entire region."

**The funding**

The funding of the accompanying scientific research at the Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter is part of the "zukunft.niedersachsen" program, with which the state government of Lower Saxony and the Volkswagen Foundation have approved a total of 145 million euros for pioneering research projects.

## The Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter e.V.

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### PRESS RELEASE

February 03, 2024 || Page 3 | 3

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The Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter e.V. is a non-profit association for the promotion and development of hydrogen technologies. Founded by nine key players from business, science and politics, the association pursues the goal of realizing hydrogen technologies along the entire value chain, from generation to utilization, thereby taking into account economic and ecological aspects. Furthermore, it serves both regionally and nationally as a training and further-education platform for specialists and managers. The Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter e.V. functions as a flagship project for the demonstration of a decarbonized industrial region in the hydrogen economy and, as a result, actively promotes climate-neutral hydrogen technologies within the framework of the National Hydrogen Strategy.

The members of the association are Allianz für die Region GmbH, Alstom Transport Deutschland GmbH, the Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST, Ingenieurbüro Zammit GmbH, Landkreis Peine, MAN Energy Solutions SE, Robert Bosch Elektronik GmbH, Salzgitter AG, Stadt Salzgitter, the Technische Universität Braunschweig, TLK-Thermo GmbH, VDI Braunschweiger Bezirksverein e.V. and WEVG Salzgitter GmbH & Co. KG.



**Presentation of the funding notification: (from left to right) Christoph Imdahl, branch manager Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Sabrina Zellmer, Deputy Director of the Fraunhofer IST and spokeswoman for the joint project; Minister Falko Mohrs, Lower Saxony Ministry of Science and Culture; Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christoph Herrmann, chairman of the board of directors of Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter e.V. and Institute Director of the Fraunhofer IST; Michael Gensicke, Chief Financial Officer of Wasserstoff Campus Salzgitter e.V. and Managing Director of Robert Bosch Elektronik GmbH. © Fraunhofer IST**

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