

TransferHub38

Building bridges between two universities and the region's economy and society

The Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences and the Technical University of Braunschweig will be jointly strengthening exchanges with the region's businesses. The state of Lower Saxony is funding this to the tune of around €1.5mil. over the next five years.

Together, the two universities were successful in their application for funding for their TransferHub38 concept, which came through the call for proposals "Transfer in Lower Saxony: Strong structures for innovative projects".

In June the funding notification was handed over by Dr. Sabine Johannsen, Lower Saxony's Secretary of State at the Ministry for Science and Culture, to Ostfalia's President Professor Rosemarie Karger and Professor Ulrich Reimers, Vice President for University Development and Technology Transfer at the Technical University of Braunschweig.



At the presentation of the funding decision (from left): Professor Rosemarie Karger, President of the Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, State Secretary Dr. Sabine Johannsen, Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony Professor Ulrich Reimers, Vice President for University Development and Technology of the Technical University of Braunschweig.

There are already examples of the long-standing and successful co-operation between the two universities, which the new TransferHub38 hopes to emulate. For example, the joint Entrepreneurship Hub promotes start-up culture, and there is joint advice on funding at EU level, available via the universities' European Office. Both universities have well-networked, professional services dealing with technology transfer. The TransferHub38 aims to expand the existing structures and link them in a systematic fashion. The partners work intensively in this respect with the local business-promotion entities, and with the region's chambers of commerce and associations.

Two additional staff are to be assigned to TransferHub38

- to support the exchange of knowledge and technology between science and society and/or industry, and in particular as regards themes involving both universities,
- to lower barriers to access for companies to university facilities,
- to increase the visibility of the transfer of knowledge and technology, and
- to promote spin-offs from the universities.

Additional capacity will be built up in the areas of entrepreneurship, monitoring and science communication, as well as in research marketing.

Views on TransferHub38

Lower Saxony's Secretary of State for the Ministry of Science and Culture, Dr. Sabine Johannsen, said: "Start-ups, spin-offs, research contracts – there are numerous channels for the transfer of knowledge and technology. Two things are essentially needed: the courage to implement excellent research in innovation, and the optimally close integration of science and industry. Within the Braunschweig area, TU Braunschweig and Ostfalia have been collaborating in the field of transfer for many years now. This collaboration is to be further strengthened with TransferHub38. The aim is to move the existing transfer structures to a new joint structure, and link it up with regional business-promotion entities. I wish the universities great success with this project."

"To our understanding, transfer is certainly not a one-way street," said **Professor Rosemarie Karger, President of the Ostfalia**. "For us, companies are not just customers, but true partners, whose knowledge and experience we can benefit from in our research and development activities, and vice versa. The TransferHub is to be a common entry point, where good ideas are discovered and promoted so that they can eventually be converted into products and services within existing and new companies."

Professor Anke Kaysser-Pyzalla, President of the TU Braunschweig, is pleased to be working with the Ostfalia: "The fact that we can count on the support of local business-promotion institutions, chambers of commerce and associations means that we have a tail wind, and once again speaks to the cohesion seen in the region."

Professor Ulrich Reimers, Vice President for University Development and Technology Transfer at the Technical University of Braunschweig, explained: "The cooperation between the TU Braunschweig and the Ostfalia around the 'third mission', i.e. universities' third task, following teaching and research, has been going on for years. TransferHub38 is the logical next step in this respect. I'm pleased that the federal state has recognised the successful cooperation, in the form of funding awarded as the result of a competitive process."

As **Prof. Gert Bikker, Ostfalia's Vice President for Research, Development and Technology Transfer** explained: "We are very proud that our application was selected. It represents confirmation that this is a good concept, and we now get the opportunity to further strengthen our successful cooperation with the TU Braunschweig in the field of knowledge and technology transfer. Together, we can achieve significantly more, and promote innovation in the region, by exchanging knowledge/technology with companies and business-promotion entities."

Jörg Saathoff, from the Technology Transfer Office of the TU Braunschweig, added: “ We are seeing that the transfer of knowledge and technology is increasingly becoming the focus of politics, economics and society, and that it is perceived to be an important part of the mission of a university. It is therefore a logical step to expand the transfer in the region through our project, and to ensure close coordination between the two universities.”

“Our advantage is that we have lots of experience with joint projects, and that all the major players in the region (such as the business-promotion entities of almost all municipalities and local authorities, the chambers of commerce, Allianz für die Region, KIM and VDI) have pledged their support, thanks to the two universities’ existing contacts,” said **Kai Hillebrecht, from Ostfalia’s Knowledge and Technology Transfer Department**. “ Together we will specifically develop a common portfolio of services for companies, and offer information, advice and a platform for the exchange of ideas from a single source.”

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