

## PRESS RELEASE

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Werkzeugmaschinenlabor WZL der  
RWTH Aachen University

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## Innovative implants minimize pain and risk

## RWTH start-up successful in the world's largest business plan competition

In the RICE Business Plan Competition (RBPC), the largest and most lucrative university competition for start-ups worldwide, the RWTH start-up "Medical Magnesium" reached third place. This award is accompanied by financing of 700,000 US dollars.

In addition, the four RWTH graduates Florian Coppers, Kilian Reuß, Alexander Kopp and Christoph Ptock won the so-called Elevator Pitch Contest. "We are overwhelmed by the positive response from investors and experts to our technology and business idea," says Florian Coppers, Managing Director of Medical Magnesium together with Kilian Reuß. "The resounding success at RBPC is an important impulse for the further development of the company".

### The Technology

The removal of orthopaedic implants is a painful, risky and expensive procedure that has been necessary for many fractures so far. Medical Magnesium develops novel magnesium implants that are transformed into bone after fracture healing, eliminating the need for a second operation to remove orthopedic implants. The pain and the risk as well as the costs for the health system are greatly reduced. Based on an innovative technology platform, Medical Magnesium develops and certifies two product lines.

### The Start-Up

Medical Magnesium is financed by an EXIST start-up grant of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy and supported by the Transfer- und Entrepreneurship Centre as well as the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of the RWTH. Professor Fitz Klocke, Director at the WZL and Chair of Manufacturing Technology, and Dr. Markus Zeis, Group Leader for Electrochemical Processing, accompanied and advised the founding team in the form of an extensive mentoring program.

### The RICE Business Plan Competition

The Rice Alliance organizes the RICE Business Plan Competition each year for Technology and Entrepreneurship at Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business at the University of Houston, Texas. The first competition was held in 2001 with nine teams and \$10,000 in prize money. Since then, the competition has grown to 42 teams in the final round and more than \$1.5 million in prize money.

### Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) (veraltet)

The Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen University has stood worldwide for more than 100 years for future-oriented research and successful innovations in the field of production technology.

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Under the leadership of four professors Christian Brecher, Fritz Klocke, Robert Schmitt und Günther Schuh, the WZL is conducting research in six areas – production technology, machine tools, production systems, transmission technology, production metrology and quality management - on the future-oriented design of production in high-wage countries. Together with industry partners from various sectors, the WZL develops solutions for a wide variety of production scenarios in both publicly funded and bilateral projects. These activities are being consolidated on the RWTH Aachen Campus in the Cluster Production Engineering.

### Attachment



f.l.t.r: Dr. Markus Zeis, Florian Coppers, Alexander Kopp, Christoph Ptock, Kilian Reuß and Prof. Dr. Fritz Klocke are pleased about the success in the RICE Business Plan Competition.

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