

## **Federal President Steinmeier on RWTH Aachen Campus at his inaugural visit to North Rhine-Westphalia**

**In the Production Engineering Cluster, he visited the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen and the electric car developer e.GO Mobile AG.**

**Aachen, 12 March 2018** – Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, accompanied by his wife Elke Büdenbender, came to North Rhine-Westphalia on 12 March 2018 for his official inaugural visit. Alongside the North Rhine-Westphalian Minister President Armin Laschet and his wife Susanne Laschet, as well as Prof. Ernst Schmachtenberg, Rector of RWTH, and Prof. Günther Schuh, Managing Director of the WZL, they visited the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen University, and the electric car developer e.GO Mobile AG in the Production Engineering Cluster on RWTH Aachen Campus.

“The University of Excellence RWTH Aachen with its Campus project is an impressive example of how close cooperation between science and industry can generate real innovation. With success stories like the StreetScooter and the e.GO Life, North Rhine-Westphalia has the potential to drive progress in e-mobility. RWTH is a pioneer in this field, opening up new avenues of development in the transition to sustainable transportation. Innovation comes from North Rhine-Westphalia and not just California,” said Minister President Armin Laschet.

The Production Engineering Cluster on RWTH Aachen Campus is one of the largest research laboratories for production engineering and Industrie 4.0 in Europe. For more than a century, the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen, initia-

tor of this cluster, has enjoyed a global reputation for its pioneering research and highly successful innovations in the field of production engineering. During their visit to the WZL, the guests got an insight into the Chair of Production Metrology and Quality Management – one of four departments in the WZL – by Prof. Robert Schmitt, Director of the WZL. The institute is also involved in the development of the e.GO Life electric car.

Next, e.GO Mobile AG CEO Prof. Günther Schuh presented the e.GO Life electric car to the guests. The production researcher explained how e.GO Mobile AG uses the network of science and industry on RWTH Aachen Campus to enable particularly cost-efficient prototype and small series production with Industrie 4.0. Series production of the e.GO Life will begin in mid-2018 at a new factory in Aachen Rothe-Erde. The State of North Rhine-Westphalia is supporting the construction of e.GO Mobile AG's production site through its Regional Economic Development Program (RWP).

“RWTH Aachen is preeminent among the many universities and scientific institutions of North Rhine-Westphalia, thanks among other things to its important contribution to e-mobility. Researchers here are doing what conventional car manufacturers claimed was impossible: building electric cars at reasonable prices. I am very excited to hear what happens here in future,” said Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

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Press photo 1: Metrology assisted assembly (WZL hall in the Production Engineering Cluster); f. l. t. r. Prof. Robert Schmitt (WZL), Elke Büdenbender, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Armin Laschet, Prof. Günther Schuh, Susanne Laschet, Prof. Ernst Schmachtenberg  
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Press photo 2: City electric car e.GO Life (Ramp-Up Factory within the Production Engineering Cluster); f. l. t. r. Susanne Laschet, Armin Laschet, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Elke Büdenbender, Prof. Günther Schuh  
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#### **RWTH Aachen University**

With its 260 institutes in nine faculties, RWTH Aachen is among the leading European scientific and research institutions and is one of the Universities of Excellence in Germany. 45,000 students in 150 courses of study are registered for the winter semester of 2017/18, including 9,000 international students from 120 countries. Teaching at RWTH Aachen is first and foremost application-oriented. Its graduates are therefore sought-after as junior executives and leaders in business and industry.

<http://www.rwth-aachen.de/>

#### **RWTH Aachen Campus**

RWTH Aachen Campus contributes significantly towards highlighting the research competence available at RWTH Aachen University. The Campus project creates a unique symbiosis of science and industry. Here, experts research specifically defined, relevant topics.



Long-term areas of research are represented in clusters. These clusters are subdivided into centers, in which interdisciplinary teams and industry consortia work jointly on specific issues of the future and develop visionary solution approaches.

<http://www.rwth-campus.com/en/>

#### **RWTH Aachen Campus | Production Engineering Cluster**

Professor Günther Schuh, Cluster Director, is pursuing the goal of making companies agile through Industrie 4.0. The focus of the cluster is on product development and its production. Agile industrial companies will be flexible, active, adaptable and self-initiative in the future. The initiators of the Production Engineering Cluster are the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen, the Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology IPT and the Chair of Production Engineering of E-Mobility.

<http://www.rwth-campus.com/en/forschung/>

#### **Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen**

For more than a century, the Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering (WZL) of RWTH Aachen has enjoyed a global reputation for its pioneering research and highly successful innovations in the field of production engineering. In six different work areas, research activities not only relate to fundamental theories and findings but also to the application of findings in an industrial context. Furthermore, practical solutions are worked out for the purposes of rationalizing production. The Laboratory for Machine Tools and Production Engineering is headed by four professors: Christian Brecher, Fritz Klocke, Robert Schmitt and Günther Schuh, who also make up the Fraunhofer IPT's Board of Directors.

[www.wzl.rwth-aachen.de/en](http://www.wzl.rwth-aachen.de/en)

#### **e.GO Mobile AG**

e.GO Mobile AG is an electric car start-up that develops and produces electronic vehicles and is headquartered on RWTH Aachen Campus. In spring 2015, Prof. Günther Schuh founded the company after launching StreetScooter GmbH back in 2009. The 200 employees so far are benefiting from these experiences and are now working in agile teams to meet customer needs and produce electric vehicles inexpensively for short-distance driving. Series production of the e.GO Life electric car will begin in mid-2018 at a new factory in Aachen Rothe-Erde.

<http://www.e-go-mobile.com/en/>

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