

PRESS RELEASE

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Joint press release of the TU Braunschweig and the Fraunhofer IST

Management announcement: New member of the management at the Fraunhofer IST

Fraunhofer and Technische Universität Braunschweig intensify their cooperation: Professor Dr. Christoph Herrmann, dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, accepts the offer of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Since 1st November 2018 he has been director at the Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST alongside with Professor Dr. Günter Bräuer. At the same time Prof. Herrmann will remain head of the TU Institute of Machine Tools and Production Technology IWF. Thus, the IST is now linked twice with the university, as the Fraunhofer Institute is already connected to the Institute of Surface Technology IOT at the TU Braunschweig via Professor Bräuer.

Prof. Herrmann also brings a whole range of topics with him that will enhance the competencies of the IST in the future and add to its expertise in the field of surface technology. A new research field, "Product and Production Systems", is being planned, including cyber-physical systems and digital process automation within the context of Industry 4.0 as well as the modeling and simulation of process chains and production systems. Another new focus is integrated life cycle engineering, which means the sustainable design of the entire product life cycle, from raw materials production, production, product to disposal and recycling. A specific goal is, for example, the establishment of a model factory at the Fraunhofer IST, in which the possibilities of modern manufacturing processes and procedures with selected processes of surface technology are to be demonstrated.

The Fraunhofer IST and TU Braunschweig plan to work closely together in the context of the new Cluster of Excellence. In order to enhance excellence, the topic area "energy transition in aviation" within the Braunschweig region is to be strengthened. One of the strategic measures is the joint promotion of young scientists.

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

Professor Dr.-Ing. Christoph Herrmann was born in Salzgitter-Bad in 1970. After studying Mechanical Engineering at the Technische Universität Braunschweig, he began his research career at the university, which has already been lasting for 20 years, first as a research assistant at the Institute for Handling and Assembly (IFH) and then at the Institute of Machine Tools and Production Technology (IWF). There he became head of department, then in 2005 deputy director of the institute and finally director of the institute in 2012. From 2005 to 2008, Herrmann was also the scientific director of the KERP Competence Center Environment & Electronics in Vienna and, from 2009 to 2013, scientific director and board member of the Automotive Research Centre Niedersachsen (NFF). In addition, Professor Herrmann has been heading the German-Australian research group “Sustainable Production & Life Cycle Engineering” in collaboration with the University of New South Wales, Sydney, since 2009.

In parallel to his professional career, Herrmann obtained his doctorate in 2003 and his habilitation in 2008 at the TU Braunschweig. In 2011, he was appointed associate professor. In the same year, together with colleagues from Fraunhofer, he received the German Raw Material Efficiency Award from the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Technology BMWi. Since 2013, Herrmann has been university professor for Sustainable Production and Life Cycle Engineering at the TU Braunschweig. In 2017, he was elected dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. Since 1st November 2018, he has been a member of the institute management at the Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST.

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The institute management of the Fraunhofer IST, Professor Dr. Christoph Herrmann (right) and Professor Dr. Günter Bräuer.
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As an industry-oriented R&D service center the Fraunhofer Institute for Surface Engineering and Thin Films IST bundles skills and expertise in the fields of coating production, coating application, coating characterization and surface analysis. The aim is to provide the surfaces of the most diverse substrate materials with new or improved functions so as to create innovative products in line with market requirements. The Fraunhofer IST is one of the seventy-two institutes of the Fraunhofer Society, Europe’s leading research organization, and with its about 120 employees has an operating budget of 12 million euros.