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Cooperation is picking up speed: Feng Chia University and Fraunhofer IST establish a joint institute in Taiwan

A further step in growing the German-Taiwanese cooperation has been made: On 16 November 2018, the Feng Chia University and the Fraunhofer IST opened jointly the Institute of Plasma (IoP) in Taichung in Taiwan.

On site the institute is headed by Professor Ju-Liang He of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Responsible on the German side is Dr. Ralf Bandorf from Fraunhofer IST, who serves as distinguished chair professor at Feng Chia University since February 2018.

The aim of the joint institute is to develop solutions in the field of plasma technology tailored to the requirements of the Taiwanese market. For this purpose, a new coating plant has already been set up and put into operation in one of the three laboratories of the new institute. The core piece is a gas flow sputter source developed by Fraunhofer IST. Some smaller projects are already being processed. Professor He is satisfied: "With Fraunhofer IST, we have gained one of the world's leading institutes in the field of plasma technology as a strategic partner."

Professor Günter Bräuer, Director of the Fraunhofer IST, is also pleased with the current development, as Professor Ju-Liang He of Feng Chia University has been in contact with IST scientists for several years. "The group is an important research partner - not only in the field of highly ionized plasmas. Professor He also opens doors for us to Taiwanese industrial partners. We are currently negotiating our first major industrial project," he reveals.

In order to further promote cooperation and exchange between industry and research in Taiwan, Feng Chia University is planning a special funding program from which IoP will also benefit. However, future activities will not only focus on technology transfer to companies; German-Taiwanese relations will also be more closely interlinked at the scientific level. Therefore, among other things, an exchange of scientists and students is planned. A delegation from the university will visit the IST in April 2019.

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR SURFACE ENGINEERING AND THIN FILMS IST

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**Professor Kuo-Bing Chen (left)
and Dr. Ralf Bandorf (right).**
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**Professor Ju-Liang He (left)
and Dr. Ralf Bandorf (right).**
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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.