



Press Release

FVA: Forschungsvereinigung Antriebstechnik supports more than 260 projects in its anniversary year

- **50 years of collective research have positioned German power transmission engineering as a world leader**
- **Approximately 1,700 research projects for power transmission engineering in 50 years**
- **Network meetings of power transmission engineering sector with approximately 560 participants from industry and research**

Frankfurt am Main, December 4, 2017. Approximately 560 participants came to Würzburg on November 29 and 30 to participate in the annual information event of the Forschungsvereinigung Antriebstechnik e. V. (FVA) to learn about the current state of research and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the FVA. In the 50 years since being founded in 1967, the FVA has made an important contribution to the innovation capabilities of German power transmission engineering in industry and research. Thanks to FVA projects, thousands of young scientists received training for their future careers in industry and research, and approximately 1,700 research projects were carried out in power transmission engineering.

Power transmission engineering has the top position worldwide thanks to collective research

The collective research by the industry and research have made Germany a leading innovation site for power transmission engineering. It has also created the foundation for technological leadership and the global market success of power transmission engineering from Germany. Dr. Burkhard Pinnekamp, Head of Central Technology at RENK AG and Deputy Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board at the FVA, highlighted the merits of the FVA for the sector in his opening speech: "Over the past 50 years, the FVA has achieved amazing things for its members and the entire power transmission engineering sector through its collective research and unique global network. It made a major contribution to the global leadership position of power transmission engineering 'Made in Germany'." Not just the sector as a whole, but every single one of the 210 mainly medium-sized companies benefits from the work of the FVA: "Thanks to the pre-competitive collective research, the FVA creates a level of research which forms the working basis for the developers in the companies. The FVA thus creates a stable basis for the industry, thereby promoting innovation in the companies. It is the driving force behind the progress which advances the individual companies and the sector as a whole," said FVA Chair Dr. Arbogast Grunau, Senior Vice President Corporate R & D Competence and Services at Schaeffler AG during the FVA information event.



Record support during the anniversary year – 1,700 research projects in 50 years

2017 was an extraordinarily successful year for the FVA. In its anniversary year, the FVA invested the total sum of approximately EUR 14.3 million in research (EUR 12.7 million in 2016) and supported 262 ongoing projects with this investment – more than ever before. In 2017, 46 projects were started by the German Federation of Industrial Research Associations (AiF) and 23 projects were financed by FVA equity capital. Since its foundation in 1967, the FVA has completed approximately 1,700 projects in the power transmission engineering sector with a financial volume exceeding EUR 230 million.

Well-positioned for the future: stronger, faster, more flexible

The FVA provided its members with information on the direction and strategy for the future during the information event. In essence, the idea is to identify important topics and trends as early as possible and efficiently implement the correct research projects. This means solving scientific problems and ensuring that the research results can be used by the member company in daily working practice. “Generating benefits for our members is the motto of what we do. We want to become even stronger, faster and more flexible in future. To achieve this, projects must be selected faster, the evaluation parameters readjusted and the resources distributed differently. Newly established specialist advisory boards are a first step. Smaller groups enable greater intensity during the discussion process while simultaneously increasing the speed. We can simplify and objectify the project selection according to strategic parameters using a new evaluation scheme. We are currently at the beginning of a change process which is directed by our values: We want to be strong, unifying and generate benefit,” explains Hartmut Rauen, Managing Director of the FVA.

Another main task of the FVA, the transfer of knowledge, should also be improved and accelerated. The development of Themis, the knowledge and communication platform of the FVA, and the calculation and simulation platform for gearboxes, FVA-Workbench, will continue to be developed. The participants were able to experience the recently released Version 4.6 of the Workbench, as well as a preview of the 5.0 release at the event. The most important new features are: a powerful reporting tool with interactive graphics, the integration of FE structures into the workbench, calculations of radial plain bearings and axial plain bearings according to the current state of research with the COMBROS computing engine, the REXX interface for the standardized exchange of gearbox data.

Network meeting for power transmission engineering – Cutting-edge research in touch with the latest trends

Scientists from the research and industry presented their current research projects at the annual FVA meeting. In 49 specialist lectures, they provided an overview of the current status of research and development in power transmission engineering and highlighted future challenges. Digitalization, Industrie 4.0 and electrified powertrains were the trend topics. Dr. Tobias Lösche-ter Horst, Head of Volkswagen Power Train Research, describes the future tasks from the perspective of the automobile manufacturer: “The biggest challenge for power transmission engineering is shaping the transformation process to sustainable and



CO₂-neutral mobility. Inspiring companies and their employees along the entire value chain is one of the most important tasks for all areas in the industry, but also for politics and society.”

Hans Winter Prize for cutting-edge research

A highlight of the event was the 17th annual awarding of the Hans Winter Prize for cutting-edge research in the power transmission engineering sector. The renowned prize for young scientists was awarded to Dipl.-Ing. Mehmet-Ozan Özel from the Institut für Werkstoffanwendungen im Maschinenbau (Institute for Materials Applications in Mechanical Engineering – IWM) at RWTH Aachen. He impressed the judges with his work on better understanding White Etching Areas (WEA) and White Etching Cracks (WEC) and was awarded EUR 3,000 for his efforts.

About the FVA

The FVA (Forschungsvereinigung Antriebstechnik e. V.) is the world's leading research and innovation network in power transmission engineering. Researchers have been working together on the pre-competition fundamental questions of power transmission engineering since 1967. This type of industrial collective research provides the basis for product innovations of the 210 FVA members.

210 member companies with over 2,000 industry experts and 100 research institutes with over 300 research employees form the foundation of the FVA network.

Over the past five decades, the FVA has completed approximately 1,700 projects with a financial volume of more than EUR 230 million. These projects helped train thousands of young scientists in an application and future-oriented way.

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