

## Background Information

# University of Technology Nuremberg: A New World of Study, Research and Teaching is Taking Shape – Emphasis on Digitalization

The University of Technology Nuremberg was founded on January 1st, 2021 and has been the first new foundation of a state-run university in Bavaria since 1978. With its consistently interdisciplinary approach, an innovative spectrum of subjects, new teaching methods and a future-oriented organizational structure, a model university will be created in the higher education landscape of Bavaria.

The University of Technology Nuremberg offers the possibility to completely re-think the concept of a university. The idea is to create a model university. New ground shall be broken not only regarding research and teaching, but also as regards its structure and administration. The academic profile of the University of Technology Nuremberg shall be shaped by future-oriented engineering sciences, complemented by courses of study in the fields of natural and social sciences, as well as humanities. Upon completion, up to 6,000 young people will be able to study on an urban campus, which is embedded in the surrounding quarters and which combines study, teaching and living.

### **Concept: Interdisciplinary, International, Digital**

The characteristic feature of the University of Technology Nuremberg is its interdisciplinary, international and digital approach right from the start. It is this interdisciplinary approach which will have an impact on teaching, studying and research at this university. It is one of the major aims of the University of Technology Nuremberg to interlink engineering sciences with other topics of society. For this reason, the new university is to offer not only engineering and technical sciences, but also humanities, natural and social sciences – and to combine them with each other. To put it simply: every student of the University of Technology Nuremberg will also study humanities and social sciences to a certain degree – a modern approach which is still not widely established in Germany. The interdisciplinary approach is also reflected by the fact that the university will not be structured in faculties as usual. Based on international standards, the university will adopt a department structure instead, which is complemented by so-called

fields of activity which put teaching contents in relation with specific topics from society and digitalization. Pursuant to its international approach, most of the courses will be held in English. The digital approach of this educational institution will be reflected in corresponding teaching methods, equipment and teaching and research focuses. Another characteristic of the new university will be a good student-teacher ratio – envisaged is a student-teacher ratio of 1: (up to) 30.

### **Campus: Interlinked, Sustainable, Urban**

The building site for the new campus is situated on Brunecker Straße in the southern part of Nuremberg. Where the former southern railway station was located, an area of 37 hectares is available for construction. The planning phase is taking shape and the winning design for the structural and urban design framework has been selected. The decision on the winning design was based not only on central issues such as mobility, climate-friendliness, sustainability, as well as energy, nature and species protection, but also on issues surrounding urban development.

The unanimously selected winning design was submitted by the team surrounding Ferdinand Heide Architekten/TOPOS and impressed the committee with its simplicity and distinctiveness. The individual construction sites of each department are grouped around a green center, so that metaphorically all departments find their place around a table as equals. This metaphor serves best to describe the role of the campus as the creator of a common identity.

The construction site borders on the neighboring quarters recently named Lichtenreuth, which is also in the planning phase, and thus will be a campus university with direct urban surroundings. The groundbreaking ceremony took place in August 2021 and marked the beginning of the construction work on the first building, only eight months after this university has been founded as the tenth state-run university in Bavaria. The multi-purpose building will predominantly house the Founding Executive Board, the administration and other central units. For a transition period, the chairs of the first departments including their pertaining administration teams will also be located there. With a usable area of 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>, the building will provide space for around 120 people. In the meantime, the university is located in their offices in The Plant in Ulmenstraße.

### **Establishing Teaching and Research**

On January 1st, 2022, the existing Executive Board comprising Founding President Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans Jürgen Prömel and Provost Dr. Markus Zanner was extended by the appointment of Prof. Dr. Isa Jahnke, Founding Vice President for Academic and

International Affairs. Her focus is on the implementation of a structure for digital teaching and learning.

The first department of the University of Technology Nuremberg – the Department of Engineering – is to combine all engineering disciplines. The second department will be the Department of Liberal Arts & Sciences, which will bundle humanities, social and natural sciences and mathematics. On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, Prof. Dr. Wolfram Burgard took office as Founding Chair. He will establish the Department of Engineering and will put the focal point on the field of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics.