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München, 17. Oktober 2024

Declaration of Support for the European Charter for Researchers

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, based in Germany, is one of the world's leading applied research organizations. By prioritizing key technologies for the future and commercializing its findings in business and industry, it plays a major role in the innovation process. As an important customer group, SMEs in particular use Fraunhofer's expertise and resources to develop new technologies and consolidate their competitiveness.

Founded in 1949, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft currently operates 76 institutes and research units throughout Germany. Its nearly 32,000 employees, predominantly scientists and engineers, generate an annual business volume of 3.4 billion euros; 3.0 billion euros of this stems from contract research, which is divided into three funding pillars. Fraunhofer generates a share of this from industry and license-fee revenue, totaling 836 million euros. The high proportion of industrial revenue is Fraunhofer's unique selling point in the German research landscape. The importance of direct collaboration with business and industry that this entails ensures a constant push for innovation in the economy, while at the same time strengthening German and European competitiveness. Another share of contract research revenue comes from publicly funded research projects. The last share is base funding supplied by the German federal and state governments, which enables our institutes to develop solutions now that will become relevant to the private sector and society in a few years.

Highly motivated employees are the most important factor in Fraunhofer's success. In recognition of this, the research organization creates opportunities for independent, creative and goal-driven work. Fraunhofer fosters professional and personal development to provide career opportunities for its employees in the private sector and society at large.

Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e. V., München
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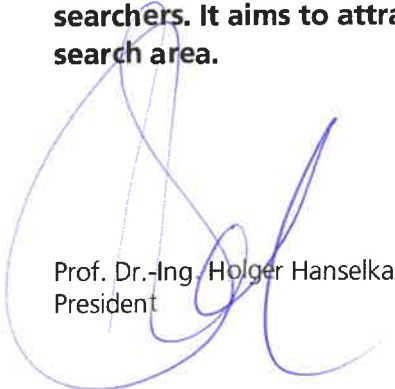
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In 2013, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft declared its support for the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. In doing so, it committed itself to the principles of the EU recommendation, fulfilling an important requirement for participation in EU projects.


The EU Commission updated the EU Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers in 2022/2023. In December of 2023, the Council of the European Union published a recommendation for a European framework to attract and retain research, innovation and entrepreneurial talents in Europe¹. The recommendation states a clear need to make research careers more attractive and inclusive, for students and graduates in particular, and to put conditions in place to make Europe an appealing and competitive destination for international researchers. Its Annex II contains the revised version of the European Charter for Researchers.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft welcomes the attention the European Commission is paying to research with the objective of establishing a Europe of knowledge and a European research area. Within the Fraunhofer 2022 Agenda and in line with the further development of its HR strategy, Fraunhofer continuously fulfills the requirements set out in the European Charter for Researchers.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft therefore expressly endorses the new European Charter for Researchers. It aims to attract the best researchers from within and outside of the European research area.



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Hanselka
President



Ass. Jur. Elisabeth Ewen
Member of the Executive Board

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/12/08/council-reaches-political-agreement-on-how-to-keep-attract-and-retain-research-innovation-and-entrepreneurial-talents-in-europe/>