

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Professor Dr Wolf Ketter new director of the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne – Professor Dr Axel Freimuth: “A luminary in the field of digitalization”**

Professor Dr Wolf Ketter has become the third director of the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne (EWI). He will lead the institute together with current directors Professor Dr Marc Oliver Bettzüge and Professor Dr Felix Höffler.

Principal of the University of Cologne Professor Dr Axel Freimuth describes Wolf Ketter as “a luminary in the important fields of digitalization and data usage”, adding, “His appointment in Cologne is a great coup for the University and EWI and it will provide further momentum to energy research at our institute.”

Wolf Ketter currently holds a professorship in Next Generation Information Systems at Rotterdam’s Erasmus University and is deemed one of the world’s leading experts on big data and adaptive systems. In Rotterdam, Professor Ketter helped set up the Erasmus Center for Future Energy Business. His important research areas include algorithms for charging electric vehicles, intelligent distribution grid management and the optimisation of decentralised, interconnected electricity and heating systems.

On 1 February, he will switch to a professorship in Business Information Systems at the University of Cologne. Additionally, he will continue his research visit at the University of California in Berkeley until summer 2017. Simultaneously to his appointment as professor of the University of Cologne, he will take up his post as EWI director.

With the arrival of Wolf Ketter, EWI will develop new skills in the increasingly important field of digitalization of the energy industry. EWI has developed detailed models of decentralised systems in the electricity, heating and transport sectors in recent years. Under the guidance of Professor Ketter, it will deepen and broaden this research. Important first steps include a “digitalization” research initiative and a study dealing with e-mobility, which will be carried out in cooperation with partner companies from the energy economy.

Both acting EWI directors, Professor Dr Marc Oliver Bettzüge and Professor Dr Felix Höffler, are eagerly looking forward to working together with Professor Ketter. “For many years, EWI has been a leading institute in the analysis of energy markets and energy policy. Decentralisation and digitalization will greatly characterise the transformation of the energy system. Interdisciplinary work in the fields of business information systems and economic research is therefore increasingly significant. With Wolf Ketter at EWI, we can tackle these issues collectively under one roof”, commented Professor Höffler. Professor Bettzüge added, “Wolf Ketter’s presence at EWI brings with it an exceptional wealth of digital competencies and energy economics expertise that will enable EWI to support decision-makers in politics and economics better than ever before, especially regarding the growing decentralisation of the energy economy.”

President of the Society of Benefactors of EWI and CEO of Entega PLC Dr Marie-Luise Wolff-Hertwig also expressed her delight at Professor Dr Wolf Ketter’s appointment: “Given the energy economy’s diverse challenges in the face of digitalization and big data, we are delighted to welcome Professor Ketter, one of the field’s world-renowned experts, to EWI.”

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