

Press release

Cologne, 19th February 2019



EWI receives new organizational structure and new funding

The State of North Rhine-Westphalia secures excellent energy economics research at the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne (EWI)

“The academic as well as economic demands on the Institute of Energy Economics at the University of Cologne (EWI) have changed substantially in the last years. Therefore, we have already successfully widened our research area by integrated energy system analyses and digitalization. The state’s institutional support helps us to further enhance our research *about and for* the energy economy of the future”, says EWI Director Prof. Dr. Marc Oliver Bettzüge. One main new focus will be the technical, economic and regulatory future challenges of a decentralized, digitalized energy industry. All current activities will be carried on at the known, high level.

EWI’s second Director, Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Ketter, also formulates high expectations on EWI’s new installation: “The new structure and the state’s support strengthen the institute’s capacity and enable new, future-oriented research, e.g. about the use of ‘Artificial Intelligence’ in the new energy economy.”

EWI’s further academic development comes with a new organizational structure. Since fall 2018, EWI forms a new *gemeinnützige GmbH* that will further proceed as well as develop all activities of ewi Energy Research & Scenarios gGmbH (ewi ER&S). The new legal structure enables an institutional funding of the renowned institute by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia (MWIDE) from 2019 on. The state’s support helps secure the institute’s basic funding and can amount up to 800,000 euro per year. EWI’s *Förderverein* retires from basic funding and will only fund single EWI projects in the future.

The new EWI gGmbH is currently lead by its temporary Managing Director, Prof. Marc Oliver Bettzüge. Dr. Christina Elberg, previous Managing Director of ewi ER&S, moved to Innogy in Essen at 1st January 2019 – at her own request and in mutual amicable agreement. Dr. Elberg established – among others – future-oriented topics at EWI, e.g. the potential of blockchain technology or new grid structures. Thus, she made a major contribution to the successful development of the Institute.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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