

## Intensification of research cooperation between Romania and the German research network **SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>**

### Background

The Technology initiative *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* is a nonprofit association with several members and sponsors from industry, research and education. It pursues the vision of a flexible, modifiable, user-oriented and networked factory of the future. One research cluster of the initiative focuses on the topic "Digital Factory". The driving forces of this cluster are the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), the University of Kaiserslautern, Siemens PLM, Finze & Wagner (fiwa) and the University Lucian Blaga Sibiu. At national and international workshops, the members agreed to join forces to intensify the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* research network in Romania. The resident manufacturing companies are an ideal basis for the topic of the "Digital Factory".

### Objectives

The research activities of the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* are driven by the members of the initiative. To promote and extend these activities, the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* is constantly seeking motivated partners in Germany and abroad. To extend and strengthen the research network in Romania, the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* and its partners responded to the BMBF call "Research Marketing in the Central, Eastern and South Eastern European Region". The promotion of the research cluster and the benefits of the "Digital Factory" are pushed into the spotlight. Contacts to manufacturing companies and private research institutes will be established. A cooperation and exchange agreement for junior and senior researchers needs to be signed between the University of Kaiserslautern and the University Lucian Blaga Sibiu to promote future research activities and improve the education of students.

### Activities

The German-speaking region Sibiu (formerly Hermannstadt) offers an ideal basis for expanding the network of the technology initiative *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* in Romania. Numerous companies are already working with high-tech production systems which will also offer an ideal platform for research institutions in the area of production automation. In several workshops, the strategies of the consortium were presented and possible research partners were identified. Leading manufacturing companies were visited and first personal contacts were established. In a major workshop with respected representatives from industry and research, the activities of the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* were represented by all

participants. With an average of 70 people, the expectations of the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* and its partners were exceeded significantly. Professional presentations, a trade exhibition and technical workshops raised awareness of innovative approaches and developments. The importance of the topic "Digital Factory" was reflected in this event and will be the thematic focus of further activities of the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* in Romania.



### Perspectives

On the basis of the enhanced and strengthened contacts, the task force "Digital Factory" is preparing applications for national and European research projects. Applications are being developed and privately financed projects are being launched. The expansion of the *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>* partner network in Romania will be promoted in coming activities. An exchange between the University of Kaiserslautern and the University Lucian Blaga Sibiu for junior and senior researchers has been set up and has already started. The outcomes for both universities are highly-motivated and well-trained students who will promote the new research clusters with passion and enthusiasm.

### Project Partners

Technology Initiative *SmartFactory<sup>KL</sup>*  
University of Kaiserslautern  
German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)  
Siemens PLM Software  
Finze & Wagner (fiwa group)  
University Lucian Blaga Sibiu  
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### BMBF Project

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