

Background

The Hasso Plattner Institute: Facts and Figures

Status: February 2013

Hasso Plattner Institute for Software Systems Engineering in Potsdam is Germany's only completely privately financed university institute – a prime example of a successful public-private partnership.

The founder is perhaps Germany's most eminent private patron of science: Prof. Dr. h.c. Hasso Plattner (Co-Founder of SAP and Chairman of its Supervisory Board). He established the non-profit "Hasso Plattner Foundation for Software Systems Engineering" - the responsible body and sole shareholder of the Institute, which has the legal status of a limited company. Plattner fully funds Germany's excellence center for software systems engineering.

In 2005, Plattner extended his commitment in Potsdam with the setup of a venture capital fund for IT company founders: Hasso Plattner Ventures. Its capital was increased in 2008 by the creation of a new fund and the founding of a subsidiary in South Africa.

With his donation, Plattner enabled the establishment of a Hasso Plattner Institute of Design (also known as the „d.school“) at the US elite university Stanford in 2005. "Design Thinking" is taught there in the sense of user-oriented innovation development for all areas of life and carried out by multi-disciplinary teams. In 2007, Plattner created a corresponding "School of Design Thinking" at HPI in Potsdam – Europe's first school of innovation for students of all disciplines. HPI and Stanford launched a joint research program in November 2008.

The HPI Academy was founded in early 2009 and offers workshops and training for executives (Professional Education).

A PRACTICE-ORIENTED COURSE OF STUDY

The Hasso Plattner Institute opened its doors in the winter semester of 1999/2000. It is the only university institute in Germany to offer an undergraduate (Bachelor) and a graduate (Master) study program in software systems engineering. Students acquire the knowledge to conceptualize, develop and implement large, highly complex and networked systems. The study programs are designed for highly talented young people who are looking for an innovative, practice and engineering-oriented computer science studies at the university level. Special qualities include the engineering

orientation, the learning of soft skills and the early, intensive integration of industrial projects into the studies.

Since September 2012, HPI has been offering all who are interested worldwide, free, open online courses on information technology via its Internet learning platform - open.HPI.de. For many years now HPI has already made it possible for every Internet user to follow university lectures and other events live online, or "on demand," using an innovative tele-teaching technology called "tele-TASK." The recorded content is not only accessible via HPI'S own tele-Task platform but also over Apples iTunes U.

DISTINCTIONS AND HONORS

Students at Hasso Plattner Institute enjoy the advantages of facilities, support, and supervision that can usually otherwise only be had in a private education. However, HPI does not charge tuition fees. Ten professors and more than 50 lecturers, visiting professors and contract teachers provide instruction at HPI to the currently enrolled 450 students at the Griebnitzsee campus – an excellent student to teacher ratio. The new main building was completed in 2010 and accommodates a top-level research lab for high-performance computing, additional work spaces, seminar rooms for students and a new floor for the HPI School of Design Thinking.

According to the latest rankings of the Centre for Higher Education Development (CHE), Hasso Plattner Institute is among the four university institutions offering the best computer science programs in Germany. In 2012, Hasso Plattner Institute was honored as recipient of the German Innovation Award and the Innovation Award of Berlin-Brandenburg for a new database management technology (In Memory Data Management) developed together with SAP.

Starting in 2006, HPI was chosen three times in a row as "Distinguished Location" in the initiative "Germany – Land of Ideas."

THE TEN AREA OF EXPERTISE

Currently, there are the following disciplines at HPI:

- Enterprise Platform and Integration Concepts
- (Prof. Hasso Plattner)
- Internet Technologies and Systems (Prof. Christoph Meinel)
- Human Computer Interaction (Prof. Patrick Baudisch)
- Computer Graphic Systems (Prof. Jürgen Döllner)
- System Analysis and Modeling (Prof. Holger Giese)
- Software Architectures (Prof. Robert Hirschfeld)
- Information Systems (Prof. Felix Naumann)
- Operating Systems and Middleware (Prof. Andreas Polze)
- HPI School of Design Thinking (Prof. Ulrich Weinberg)
- Business Process Technology (Prof. Mathias Weske)

EXCELLENT RESEARCH

In October 2005, a Research School was set up at the Hasso Plattner Institute, with currently more than 50 young junior researchers (PhD students and postdoctoral fellows). The Research School is also financed by HPI's founder. Its research focus is "Service-Oriented Systems Engineering." The HPI Research School maintains international branches at the University of Cape Town (South Africa), at the Technion in Haifa (Israel) and at Nanjing University (China).

In cooperation with industry partners, HPI opened a computing research lab of international significance in June 2010. Equipped with high-performance computers, the "HPI Future SOC Lab" is a top-level research lab for computer science.

HPI works closely with renowned research partners, among them Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the US, and the Technical University of Beijing, as well as with various universities in Europe.

Many large, well-known corporations and institutions work in collaboration with HPI, among them are the Federal Office for Information Security, the Charité, Deutsche Telekom, IBM, Metro Group, Microsoft, and SAP.

QUALIFIED GRADUATES

The graduates (by now more than 700 Bachelor of Science degrees, 300 Master of Science degrees, more than 60 PhDs as well as one postdoc) are well qualified for their future jobs as young executives in the IT industry, e.g., as chief information officers, project team leaders, or software architects.

Graduates of Hasso Plattner Institute have already founded more than 26 companies in the IT sector and a dozen companies in the field of Design Thinking. They offer products and services such as those related to IT design, computer graphics, website prototyping, and software architecture, in addition to innovation supporting services.

A PROFILE OF HASSO PLATTNER INSTITUTE GMBH

The Potsdam-based Hasso Plattner Institute for Software Systems Engineering GmbH (HPI) is Germany's leading academic center of excellence in the field of IT software systems engineering. It is the only university institute in Germany to offer a Bachelor and Master degree programs in "IT Systems Engineering" – a hands-on computer science program in which 450 students are enrolled at present. The HPI School of Design Thinking, Europe's first innovation school for university students, is modeled on the Stanford d.school and offers 120 places for a supplementary study. Altogether, over a dozen professors and more than 50 other guest professors, contract teachers

and lecturers are engaged at HPI. The Institute conducts academic research at the highest level in its nine areas of expertise but also in the HPI Research School for doctoral candidates. Work is also carried out at the research branches in Cape Town, Haifa and Nanjing. The primary objective of HPI teaching and research is the development and applications of highly-sophisticated, large-scale networked IT systems. The development and research of user-oriented innovations for all areas of life is another area of focus. Time and again HPI achieves the top place in the CHE university rankings. Since the beginning of September 2012, the Institute has provided an interactive Internet learning network – openHPI.de – that is free and open to everyone.

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