

Background

The Hasso Plattner Institute: Facts and Figures

Status: June 2016

The 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. HPI was founded in 1998.

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 with the creation of a new fund and the founding of a subsidiary in South Africa.

With his funding, 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 in 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 innovative, practice- and engineering-oriented computer science studies at the university level. Special qualities include an engineering orientation, the learning of soft skills, and the early, intensive integration of industrial projects into the study program.

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 Apple’s iTunes U.

DISTINCTIONS AND HONORS

The students at Hasso Plattner Institute enjoy the advantages of facilities, support, and supervision that can usually only be had in a private education. However, HPI does not charge tuition fees. Twelve professors and more than 50 lecturers, visiting professors, and contract teachers provide instruction at HPI to the 480 students currently enrolled 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 and labs 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 was honored as recipient of the German Innovation Award and the Innovation Award of Berlin-Brandenburg for new database management technology (In-Memory Data Management) developed together with SAP.

In June 2016 Hasso Plattner announced plans to expand the Hasso Plattner Institute, which he had personally established. The expansion will involve both structure and content. After a still pending decision by the respective university committees, the current institute of the University of Potsdam will become a Faculty of “Digital Engineering.”

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

TWELVE AREAS OF RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Currently at HPI there are the following disciplines:

- Enterprise Platform and Integration Concepts (Prof. Hasso Plattner)
- Internet Technologies and Systems (Prof. Christoph Meinel)
- Human Computer Interaction (Prof. Patrick Baudisch)
- Computer Graphics Systems (Prof. Jürgen Döllner)
- Algorithm Engineering (Prof. Tobias Friedrich)
- System Analysis and Modeling (Prof. Holger Giese)
- Software Architectures (Prof. Robert Hirschfeld)
- Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (Prof. Emmanuel Müller)
- Information Systems (Prof. Felix Naumann)
- Operating Systems and Middleware (Prof. Andreas Polze)
- HPI School of Design Thinking (Prof. Ulrich Weinberg)
- Business Process Technology (Prof. Matthias Weske)

EXCELLENT RESEARCH

In October 2005, a Research School was set up at Hasso Plattner Institute, with currently nearly 60 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 importance 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, with the Technical University of Beijing, as well as various universities in Europe. Many large, well-known corporations and institutions work in collaboration with HPI, among them: the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), the Charité, Deutsche Telekom, IBM, Metro Group, Microsoft, and SAP.

QUALIFIED GRADUATES

The graduates (by now more the 930 Bachelor of Science degrees, 500 Master of Science degrees, more than 110 completed PhDs, and one postdoc degree) are well qualified for their future career as young executives in the IT industry, for instance as chief information officers, project team leaders, or software architects.

Graduates of Hasso Plattner Institute have already founded more than 100 startups in the areas of IT and Design Thinking. They offer, for example, products and services, such as those related to IT design, computer graphics, website prototyping and software architectures, but also services related to innovation support.

PROFILE OF HASSO PLATTNER INSTITUTE GMBH

The Hasso Plattner Institute for Software Systems Engineering GmbH (www.hpi.de) at the University of Potsdam is Germany's university excellence center for IT-Systems Engineering. HPI is the only university institution in Germany offering the Bachelor's and Master's degree in "IT-Systems Engineering" – a practical and engineering-oriented alternative to conventional computer science studies. Current enrollment is at approximately 480 students. The HPI School of Design Thinking is Europe's first innovation school for university students. It is based on the Stanford model of the d.school and offers 240 places annually for a supplementary course of study.

There are a total of twelve HPI professors and over 50 guest professors, lecturers, and contracted teachers at the Institute. HPI carries out research noted for its high standard of excellence in its ten topic areas. Research work is also conducted at the Potsdam HPI Research School for PhD candidates as well as at its branches in Cape Town, Haifa and Nanjing. HPI teaching and research focuses on the foundation and application of large-scale, highly complex and distributed IT systems. The development and exploration of user-driven innovations for all sectors of life is an additional area of importance. HPI always earns the highest positions in the CHE university ranking. Since September 2012, HPI has provided an interactive Internet learning platform - openhpi.de. Its free open online courses are available to everyone.

Further information:

<http://hpi.de/de/presse/presseinformationen.html>

Press contact: presse@hpi.de.

Press Spokesperson: Christiane Rosenbach: christiane.rosenbach@hpi.de

Tel. 0331/5509-119