

Weidmüller setting up Smart Connectivity Competence Center at CIIT in Lemgo

Close cooperation with the research facilities of CENTRUM INDUSTRIAL IT (CIIT) for the development of smart plug-in connector solutions, infrastructure solutions and industrial electrical connectivity

Lemgo/Detmold, 15 October 2018. The Detmold-based electrical engineering company Weidmüller is expanding its presence within the CENTRUM INDUSTRIAL IT (CIIT) independent research and development centre at the Innovation Campus Lemgo. Weidmüller is setting up a Smart Connectivity Competence Center at the CIIT in order to develop innovations in the field of electrical connectivity and to increase its focus on issues relating to industrial infrastructure. Ten employees from the Device and Field Connectivity division will work even more closely within the CIIT partner network in the future. This is in line with Weidmüller's strategy and follows the company's announcement in December 2017 regarding its plans to increase its activities in Lemgo and promote the development of the Innovation Campus Lemgo. "The aim of the Competence Center is to drive forward research and development relating to smart industrial electrical connectivity, the change of industrial infrastructure and the digital description of products", explains Jörg Scheer, Head of the Device and Field Connectivity division at Weidmüller.

This sees Weidmüller expand, in particular, upon its over ten years of cooperation with the CIIT Science-to-Business centre. The Competence Center will also be able to benefit from optimal support thanks to the proximity to the SmartFactoryOWL, the resident institute Fraunhofer Application Center IOSB-INA and the Institute of Industrial Information Technology (inIT) at the OWL University of Applied Sciences, as well as its participation in the "it's OWL" network. Future development will focus on the issue of industrial infrastructure for power, signals and data, as the process of digitalisation is leading to continual changes in business models, products and working processes as well as in the collaboration between employees and with customers. This leads to the creation of new solutions, products, services and business models, which allow for networking along the value chain. "The trend towards digitalisation in industry requires new solutions, even for components that have previously been purely electromechanical in nature. Plug-in connectors are becoming smart and behave intelligently and will take on innovative additional functions in the

future, and they have to operate in infrastructure networks that use DC voltage instead of AC voltage for power distribution", says Scheer. "With the Smart Connectivity Competence Center, we are responding to this development and are intensifying the development of smart plug-in connector solutions and infrastructure solutions".

Weidmüller has already been represented at CIIT in Lemgo for many years in the area of technology development, and the employees from the division mentioned above will serve to further boost the company's presence at the centre. In the future, these employees will work together in close collaboration with the on-site research institutes with the aim of developing the technologies to create market-ready solutions in collaboration with customers.

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Image caption: Standing in the Smart Connectivity Competence Center at the CENTRUM INDUSTRIAL IT (CIIT), Dr Sascha Nolte, Head of the Smart Connectivity Competence Center, shows what the employees will be working on in Lemgo in the future.

Weidmüller – your partner in industrial connectivity.

As experienced experts we support our customers and partners around the world with products, solutions and services in the industrial environment of power, signal and data. We are at home in their industries and markets and know the technological challenges of tomorrow. We are therefore continuously developing innovative, sustainable and useful solutions for their individual needs. Together we set standards in Industrial Connectivity.

The Weidmüller Group owns manufacturing plants, sales companies and representatives in more than 80 countries.

In fiscal year 2017 Weidmüller reached sales of EUR 740 million with some 4,700 employees.

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About CENTRUM INDUSTRIAL IT (CIIT):

The independent research and development centre CENTRUM INDUSTRIAL IT (CIIT) is the world's first Science-to-Business centre in the field of industrial automation. CIIT partners from the areas of business, science and research are designing the digital factory of the future in joint research and transfer projects.

Under one roof, with an area of 11,000 m², over 400 highly qualified experts are working on and researching future technologies while benefiting from an extensive exchange of technologies and expertise. The field of industrial automation is a real driver of innovation within the core German sector of machinery and plant engineering, and therefore makes a crucial contribution to securing Germany's position as a place to do business in this area.

CIIT e.V partners from the areas of business, science and research are designing the digital factory of the future in joint research and transfer projects. Drivers and key players are the (market-)leading industrial companies and research facilities such as the Fraunhofer Application Center Industrial Automation (IOSB-INA), the Institute of Industrial Information Technology (inIT) at the OWL University of Applied Sciences, Phoenix Contact, Weidmüller, ISI Automation, OWITA, MSF-Vathauer Antriebstechnik, Bosch Rexroth, Aventics, KEB Automation, TÜV SÜD and KBA-NotaSys.

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