# WILHELM UND ELSE HERAEUS-STIFTUNG







1851: Wilhelm Carl Heraeus in Hanau

**1856: Melting of Platinum** 

1899: Void-free Quartz Glass





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- born 1900
- studied physics
- completed his PhD in physics in 1923 @ University Frankfurt

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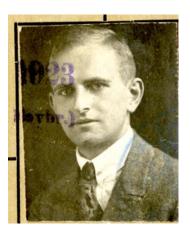
Weihnachten 1922 bezog ich die Universität Frankfurt, nahm an den Vorlesungen und praktischen Übungen folgender Herrn Professoren teil:

Gerlach, Madelung, Lorentz,

und führte bei Herrn Geheimrat Wachsmuth und Herrn Prof. Gerlach meime Promotionsarbeit aus.

#### Wilhelm Heinrich Heraeus

- born 1900
- studied physics
- completed his PhD in physics in 1923 @ University Frankfurt
- entered the company that his grandfather had founded in 1851 in Hanau (still one of the top-10 family owned companies in Germany),
- where he spent his career as manager and entrepreneur
- established, together with his wife Else, the WE-Heraeus-Foundation in 1963
- after they passed away in the 1980ies, their company shares were transferred into the property of the foundation



Else Heraeus and Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich Heraeus



### **Purpose**

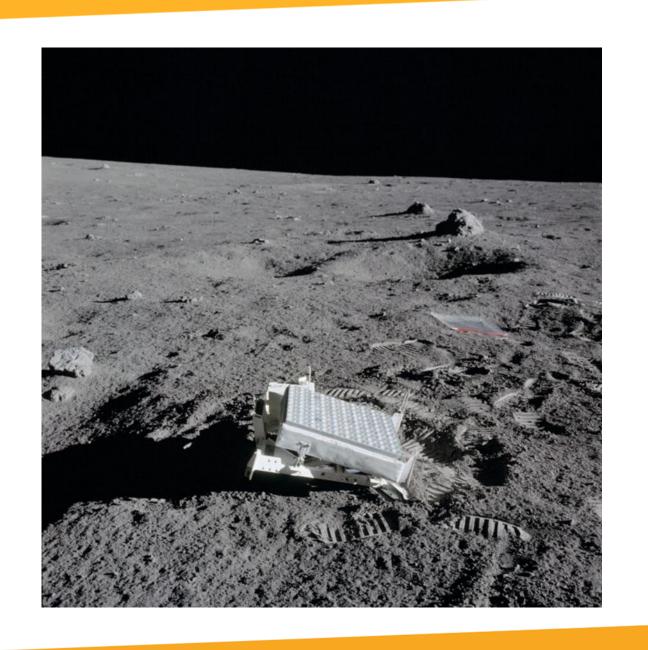
Support of research and education in science, with emphasis on physics, by

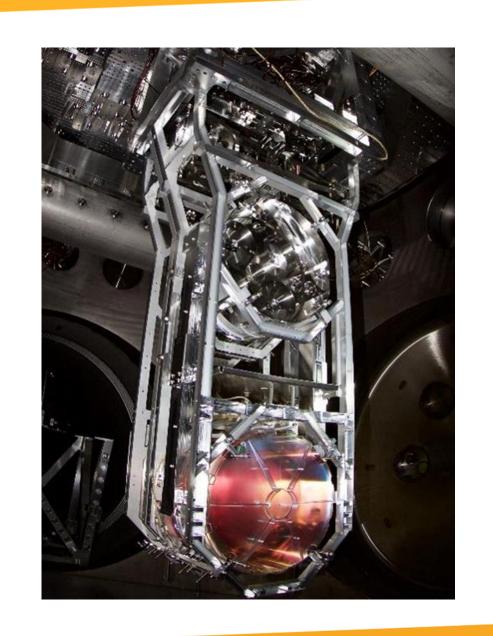
- funding school activities (e.g. school labs)
- funding teacher training courses
- supporting physics students (e.g. travel support to meetings of the German Physical Society - DPG)
- organizing/funding scientific communication:
- WE-Heraeus Seminars, Summer Schools, Research Retreats
- cooperation with other non-profit institutions (especially DPG)
- awarding seniorprofessorships
- special projects, prizes, etc.

## **Heraeus Group**

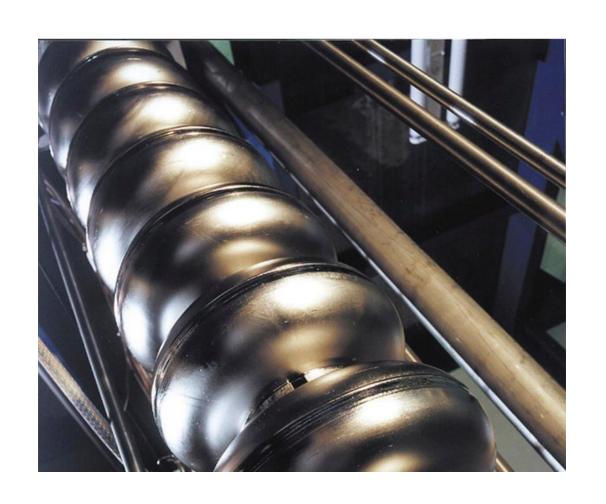
- globally active group
- 14.000 employees (approx. 5.300 in Germany)
- revenues 2022: approx. 29 billion €
- one of the top 10 family-owned companies in Germany
- includes businesses in the environmental, electronics, health and industrial applications sectors











### **Scientific Communication**

- WE Heraeus Seminars since 1975: > 800 / > 50.000 participants
- WE Heraeus Physics Schools since 1989: approx. 400, mainly on topics not yet covered in textbooks; recently also outside Germany → Karpacz!
- WE Heraeus Research Group Retreats
  since 2014, at i.e. mountain huts, with ample time to discuss about physics, embedded in social activities
- Binational WE Heraeus Seminars
  since 2019, foster existing cooperation or initiate new one between
  physicists in Germany and a partner country worldwide

# Organization

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# Organization

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### **Preferred Venue**



**Physikzentrum Bad Honnef (near Bonn)** 

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#### Winter School on Theoretical Physics @ Karpacz



### **Binational WE Heraeus Seminars**

- Initiate new or foster existing collaborations between research groups in Germany and another country (worldwide)
- Scientists from Germany and the partner country can submit a joint proposal
- Seminars can take place either in Germany or partner country
- First ones with France, UK and Poland



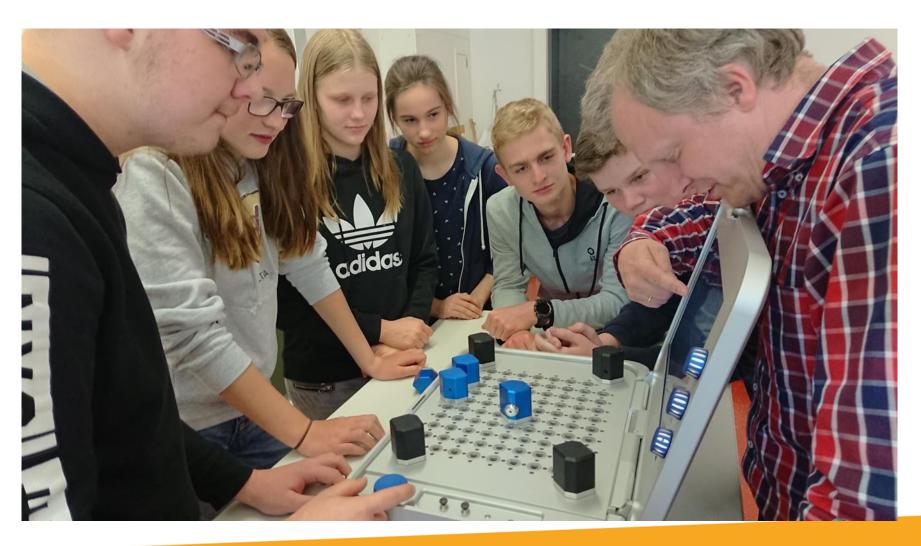


#### Polish-German WE Heraeus Seminar in Görlitz, Dec. 2023



Financial support for exemplary projects designed to improve physics teaching at schools











Many activities related to e.g. Astronomy: school observatories, teacher training courses in Astronomy



## **Further information**

