Speech

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

MinR Dr. Thomas Roth

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the
Wolfgang Gentner stipends program

October 25th, 2017

in Geneva, Switzerland
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<th>Welcome and context of speech</th>
<th>Dear Dr. Hauschild, Dr. Fleischer, dear participants of the Wolfgang Gentner program, Ladies and Gentlemen</th>
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<td>CERN</td>
<td>We are here to celebrate the anniversary of the Wolfgang Gentner Scholarship. More precisely: The tenth anniversary of the German Doctoral Student Program at CERN for technical university graduates. Initiated in 2007, by now more than hundred young professionals have successfully completed it or are currently engaged in it. For three years, each of them benefits from the unique environment that CERN provides. CERN is known as one of the most respected centers for basic research in particle physics worldwide. To study the basics of constituents of matter, scientists rely on enormous and highly complex scientific instruments. Such as the world’s largest particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider LHC. But also other</td>
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### Examples

facilities from atomic physics to medical applications. These are exceptional surroundings Gentner participants work in: International, inspiring, challenging and through and through high-tech.

An environment in which for example Marcel Schuh worked – the first “Gentner Doctor”. He started his scholarship in April 2008 and finished his PhD with a thesis in the field of accelerator technology. He was in the exceptional position to gain access to the Large Hadron Collider very early on, as he worked on monitoring and control systems for trigger and readout electronics on the ALICE detector.

I also want to name the one-hundredth Gentner student: Christian Zimmer. He started the program in 2016. During his doctorate he is part of the AEgIS collaboration at CERN at the Antiproton Decelerator, a completely different area than the LHC. Together with his colleagues Christian Zimmer seeks to cool antiprotons to temperatures in the range of millikelvins.
| **Objectives of funding policy** | This has never been done before! Marcel Schuh and Christian Zimmer are two exciting examples that stand for the total number of 120 Gentner participants right now. Every one of you, the participants, followed or follows their personal appealing path of science at CERN. A path which the Federal Ministry of Education and Research enables through strategic funding. The support of German doctoral students is part of the investment strategy of the Federal Ministry in basic research at large scale scientific infrastructure both on a national and international level. Germany for instance contributes more than 20 percent of the CERN Budget. This is part of the institutional funding. Then there are maintenance and operation costs for the experiments. Most important are the scientists themselves, who conduct experiments and help us all learn from |
them. To grant access to German groups, especially from universities, the Federal Ministry has designed further instruments: One of them is the Wolfgang Gentner Scholarship Program, currently investing around 2 million euros per year. With help of this instrument we ensure a high percentage of doctoral candidates from Germany at CERN. A recent cross-country comparison shows that with a share of around 23 percent, technical students from Germany make up the majority of doctoral students in this area. And to highlight a further positive trend: The share of women with around 33 percent is relatively high. It exceeds significantly the share of women with master degrees in physics in Germany.

The Gentner program offers outstanding job perspectives for young professionals seeking their future at CERN. With Gentner, the opportunities for German candidates to secure a career at CERN increase profoundly. Currently more than
half of the Gentner applicants obtain their first employment – a temporary postdoc position – at CERN: Some of them succeed to become permanent staff quickly afterwards. Other Gentner students proceed to other research facilities in science and economy.

Furthermore the scholarship consolidates the bonds between German universities and non-university research facilities. Meanwhile already 30 universities and technical universities belong to the circle of participating institutions. My ministry is glad to see that each year new partners are joining and hope to see this trend continue.

Gentner creates a threefold win-win-win situation: CERN benefits from the creative/bright/inspiring/talented young people. The universities profit from the expertise which the students carry back to their home institutes. Young scientists enhance their perspectives on the job marked.
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<td>To finish this speech I want to thank all cooperating partners. We appreciate the successful cooperation and are happy to extend this trilateral program from 2018 onwards for three more years with the option of further extension until the end of 2023.</td>
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As you all know, DESY coordinates and executes the program jointly with CERN, for which I specifically would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Michael Hauschild and Dr. Manfred Fleischer.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you all a fruitful and inspiring meeting and thank you for your attention. |