Topping-out ceremony for Photonics Cluster, an emblematic site for exchange between science and business

Aachen, August 26, 2015. The setting could not have been more apt: joined by numerous guests, the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT, RWTH Aachen Campus GmbH, and ante4c GmbH – who partnered with Landmarken AG as project developer – today celebrated the topping-out ceremony for the first construction phase of the Photonics Cluster on the RWTH Aachen Campus. The celebration took place in the building’s light-flooded atrium, a place of encounters, communication, and the exchange of knowledge. In his welcome address, Landmarken director Jens Kreiterling described the atrium as an effective symbol of the cluster principle at the RWTH Aachen Campus, where business and science come together, interact, and cross-fertilize.

As one of six initial clusters, the Photonics Cluster on the Melaten Campus is an essential component in the overall development process of the campus. Dr. Klaus Feuerborn, managing director of RWTH Aachen Campus GmbH, praised the architectural quality of the campus projects, which the Photonics Cluster has continued in impressive style.

Mayor Margrethe Schmeer emphasized the significance of the campus for the city of Aachen – as a scientific location, but also as an economic boon, since it will attract new companies to set up business there. Construction of the RWTH Aachen Campus in the west of the city is creating one of the largest technologically oriented research landscapes in Europe, which will be home to no fewer than 19 different clusters once completed.

Prof. Reinhart Poprawe, director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Laser Technology ILT, invoked Aachen’s standing as an internationally renowned laser technology location for manufacturing industry. And this reputation will only be enhanced in the future, when topics such as laser material processing, laser measurement technology, medical engineering, and optical beam sources will be researched and developed in the around 7,000 square meters of laboratory and office space in the first cluster building. Finally, it was left to a guest from London to explain the building’s layout concept and use of space to those gathered for the event: Cristina Garcia from the architect’s office KPF (Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates) presented the architectural design, which accommodates the creative integration of light as a motif in the interior and exterior. It is only logical, then, that the atrium should be the centerpiece of the structure, flooding the heart of the research building with light. With its conference rooms, restaurant spaces, and adjacent outdoor terraces, the atrium is an attractive space for meeting other people and promoting interdisciplinary exchange between industry and the university. As such, there truly could have been no better venue for the topping-out ceremony.
About the Photonics Cluster

The Photonics Cluster specializes in researching and developing techniques designed to generate, shape and harness light – in particular as an industrial manufacturing tool. Industrial companies looking to conduct research and development in the field of optical technologies in close cooperation with RWTH Aachen and Fraunhofer ILT will move into the cluster’s first building complex.

For 30 years, Fraunhofer ILT has been a recognized partner of leading laser manufacturers and of numerous laser technology users from a wide variety of sectors, including aircraft manufacturing, electrical engineering, medical technology, automobile manufacturing, and mechanical engineering. Approximately 120 scientists will commence research work during the cluster’s starting phase. The Photonics Cluster will then be expanded in several construction stages until it eventually houses a total of some 40,000 square meters of research space.

Facts and figures

Location: RWTH Aachen Campus, (Melaten Campus), Campus Boulevard / Maria-Lipp-Strasse, Aachen, Germany
Plot area: approx. 2,049 m² (1st construction phase); whole cluster: approx. 20,830 m²
Stories: ground floor, 5 upper floors, basement level (building services)
Use / tenants: offices, factory workshops, measuring rooms, restaurants; Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft e.V., RWTH Aachen, Innolite GmbH
Combined rental area: approx. 7,050 m²
Type: new building
Investors and project developers: ante4c GmbH, partners in Landmarken AG
Internet: www.landmarken-ag.de/campus-optische-technologien
Project management: Maik Voigt, +49 (241) 1895-151, mvoigt@landmarken-ag.de
Partners: KPF, London (Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates), Höhler + Partner

About Landmarken AG

Landmarken AG is one of the best-known project developers in the German state of Nordrhein-Westfalen, where it carries out many different projects in fields such as office buildings (including job center and campus developments), industrial and retail buildings, and special and protected structures. In addition, Landmarken AG develops high-quality publicly funded residential quarters. Through membership of the German Sustainable Building Council (DGNB) it commits itself to that organization’s economic and environmental principles. The following statement sums up Landmarken AG’s aspirations: “We shape the future, we help to shape whole regions. The projects change, but our philosophy stays the same.”
You can find more information about Landmarken AG and its projects here:
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Caption
Topping-out ceremony for innovation center in Photonics Cluster at RWTH Aachen Campus on August 26, 2015; from left to right: Jens Kreiterling, director of Landmarken AG; Cristina Garcia, KPF architect's office; Mayor of Aachen Margrethe Schmeer; Prof. Reinhart Poprawe, director of Fraunhofer ILT; and Dr. Klaus Feuerborn, managing director of RWTH Aachen Campus GmbH.

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