

# Pressemitteilung

## RWTH

RHEINISCH-  
WESTFÄLISCHE  
TECHNISCHE  
HOCHSCHULE  
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## More Computer Labs for Engineering Students

### Ceremonial Act welcomes RWTH Aachen University to International Partnership PACE

Since 2006 RWTH Aachen University has profited from donations in-kind as well as participation in conferences and student projects as a result from a yet unpublicized membership status with PACE (Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education), which will turn official on **February 13 2008, 9.00 AM, in Aula 1 of RWTH's main building** (Templergraben 55) in a ceremony for the admission of RWTH Aachen University to the PACE community. PACE is a partnership of General Motors/Adam Opel GmbH, EDS, Hewlett Packard, Siemens PLM Software, Sun Microsystems and their global operations for the improvement of the training of engineers and designers. With its acceptance into PACE, RWTH Aachen joins a circle of world-renowned universities such as MIT, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech as well as other institutions in Australia, Canada, China, Mexico, South America, South Korea und Sweden.

The significance of this event is indicated by the presence of many high-ranking representatives from politics, economics and science. RWTH's Rector Univ.-Prof. Dr. Burkhard Rauhut is especially pleased to welcome Prof. Dr. Andreas Pinkwart, Deputy Prime Minister for the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen and Minister for Innovation, Science, Research and Technology, who will congratulate on behalf of the government of the state. The list of congratulators also includes Holger Kimmes, Managing Director Personnel & Social Affairs Adam Opel GmbH, Martien Merks, Vice President and Managing Director of Siemens PLM Software GmbH, and Prof. Dr. R. Anderl, Vice President of Technische Universität (TU) Darmstadt.

In the second part of the main event, the focus will shift towards the technical contents of the collaboration; lectures will outline the challenge of collaborative product development within the global corporate GM, represented here by Adam Opel GmbH. Rounding off the event, involved RWTH institutions will present themselves and their activities towards the guests and interested RWTH students.

The effective handling of tools such as CAD (Computer Aided Design) and PDM (Product Data Management) is fundamental knowledge for engineers in every discipline, which is why these topics have been introduced into the first semesters of engineering curricula. However, universities have difficulty keeping up with the "arms race" resulting from the rapid development of engineering software and its requirements on hardware due to limited funding. As a consequence, it often is necessary to give instruction on outdated systems or to limit access to such fundamental

courses to a specialized group of students. With an eye on the needs of the automotive industry, PACE partners GM/Adam Opel GmbH and suppliers EDS, Hewlett Packard, Siemens PLM Software and Sun

Microsystems, offer a solution to these problems by making software and even complete workstations and servers available under very favorable terms – a large part of that offer even is altogether free.

An acceptance to the PACE collaboration can't be taken for granted: only leading institutions that qualify engineers for the automotive industry stand a chance to get accepted to the program. The selection strategy also limits the number of universities in each country. Besides the already accepted TU Darmstadt, only one more German University was going to be selected after the last call for admission applications. Here, RWTH succeeded with its entry submitted by Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Feldhusen, Institute for Engineering Design.

There are three significant reasons that led to the application:

- First, the in-kind donations significantly and directly improve the learning conditions for students in any course conducted in computer labs. Even in 2006, RWTH was able to equip two new rooms in the ARPA computer lab cluster with refurbished high-performance CAD workstations donated by Adam Opel GmbH. There also is an agreement that provides a sufficient number of licences of the software NX™5 (CAD) and Teamcenter® (Collaborative Engineering) for compulsory undergraduate courses in the study programs “Mechanical Engineering” and “Industrial Engineering and Management” (about 1100 students each year), which also allows RWTH students the use of the software on their own computers. Even a server has been granted and set up in Aachen that will be mainly used for collaborative student projects. What needs to be stressed is that the comparably little administrative effort to apply for these grants helps the institutes to concentrate on the actual education.
- A further motivation to become a PACE institution is faculty training by the software suppliers. Regular workshops keep lecturers informed and education up-to-date.
- Finally, the growing network of universities, students and the industries on an international level is a third argument to join PACE. Regular conferences, workshops and projects such as the “Global Vehicle Project” RWTH students were able to take part in in 2007. This project had students of 21 universities from 10 countries collaborating on the design, production and assembly of a formula race car. One project for the upcoming summer semester is a mutual course “Cooperative Product Development” held simultaneously at RWTH Aachen and Hongik University in Seoul, South Korea. Lectures and communication within the development teams that will work on a vehicle for the elderly will be achieved by collaboration tools such as PDMS and video-conferencing.

Further Information on demand:

- Itinerary of the events on the 13th and 14th of February 2008 as part of the ceremonial act to international partnership PACE.
- Company Profiles , Quotations and CVs on PACE partners and contributors.
- DVD „RWTH transparent“.

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