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Forschungsvereinigung Verbrennungskraftmaschinen e.V.
FVV | Research Association for Combustion Engines

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Taking a holistic approach to the mobility and energy system: Peter Gutzmer and Christopher Steinwachs lead FVV Board

The Executive Committee of the FVV | The Research Association for Combustion Engines (Forschungsvereinigung Verbrennungskraftmaschinen e. V.) re-elected Prof. Dr.-Ing. Peter Gutzmer as its President. The mechanical engineer, who used to serve as Schaeffler's Chief Technology Officer, has been managing the FVV since 2017. Dipl.-Ing. Christopher Steinwachs, who is responsible for the development of components for gas turbines in a senior position at Siemens, was elected as deputy president for the first time.

»The forthcoming transformation of our mobility and energy system calls for a re-orientation of our research focus on future powertrains and energy converters,« commented FVV Managing Director Dietmar Goericke on the election. »We are glad that we have been able to win two managers with many years of industry experience to accompany us in this exciting and challenging process.«

Frankfurt/M., 12 November 2019 // Peter Gutzmer (66) is committed to a sustainable transition towards zero emission and climate-neutral powertrain systems, for example as deputy head of the working group on alternative drive technologies and fuels for sustainable mobility of the National Platform "Future of Mobility" established by the Federal Government. He is convinced that the combustion engine - operated climate-neutrally with synthetic fuels - is part of this transformation. »To achieve this goal, we must take a more system-orientated approach to research,« said Gutzmer. »In addition, we want to give new topics such as the fuel cell and hydrogen as an energy carrier a broader place in the FVV.« According to Gutzmer, this is vital, because many small and medium-sized enterprises lack the basic knowledge to master the transformation without the pre-competitive industrial collective research of the FVV.

Christopher Steinwachs (54) has been working in various positions at Siemens since 1992 to increase the efficiency of gas turbines. He is currently responsible for the manufacturing of hot gas components, i.e. the core of the turbines. »All meta studies show that the energy system transformation requires a backbone of chemical energy carriers that can be used to compensate for fluctuating power generation from regenerative sources,« explained Steinwachs. »It is an exciting field of research to find out how the energy sources and gas turbines required for this task interact with each other in an optimum way.« Steinwachs, too, is convinced that industrial collective research makes an important contribution to strengthening small and medium-sized suppliers.

Together with the strong international network of the FVV, Gutzmer and Steinwachs are keen to strengthen cross-sector research. They are supported by 170 member companies, more than 100 research institutes, several fellow associations of the Mechanical Engineering Research Federation (FKM) of the VDMA and its Power Systems and Engines & Systems trade associations. For instance, the FVV is currently working on a study to provide a life cycle analysis for various powertrains and energy sources. The results will be presented to the public in the coming months.

Furthermore, the presidency and management of the research association regard the training of young engineers as an important task for the future. Within the 125 ongoing research projects of the FVV, dozens of master's theses and doctorates are written every year. »We are thus building a bridge between research and practice-orientated education,« said Goericke. »This is an important prerequisite for maintaining Germany as a leading industrial location in the grand transformation. And we continue to rely on the financial support for our research projects by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) as part of the industrial collective research programme (Industrielle Gemeinschaftsforschung - IGF).«

Images



1 | Prof. Dr. Peter Gutzmer, President
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2 | Prof. Dr. Peter Gutzmer and
Dietmar Goericke
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3 | Christopher Steinwachs,
Deputy President
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About FVV

FVV | The Research Association for Combustion Engines is an international network of companies, research & technology performers (RTD) and funding bodies. In the context of pre-competitive Industrial Collective Research (IGF), manufacturers of automotive engines, industrial engines and turbomachinery as well as their suppliers and service providers work together with universities and other research establishments on cutting-edge technologies. The aim is to make prime movers - internal combustion engines, hybrids, turbomachines and fuel cells - cleaner, more efficient and sustainable - for the benefit of society, industry and the environment.

Combustion engines and fuel cells facilitate individual mobility, transportation, energy supply and industrial added value. The innovative power of the industry and its economic success make a significant contribution to social prosperity. As a non-profit organisation, the FVV supports the development of its members - small, medium and large companies - and the promotion of young scientists through pre-competitive industrial collective research.

The FVV is a member of the German Mechanical Engineering Research Federation (Forschungskuratorium Maschinenbau - FKM), which coordinates the pre-competitive research of small and medium-sized companies under the umbrella of the VDMA. Since its foundation in 1956, the association has been a member of the German Federation of Industrial Research Associations (Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen - AiF), the leading national organisation for applied research and development for SMEs. Over the years, the FVV has invested more than 500 million euros in 1,200 research projects.

More information at www.fvv-net.de/en/