

*Our newsletter aims to provide you with regular updates on news, current topics and dates of interest relating to the SAFIR research partnership. We look forward to your feedback as well as constructive suggestions and requests for changes!*

## ***FH-Impuls transfer workshop at THI: national meeting of the ten BMBF funding agencies***

Around 60 scientists and business experts gathered in mid-May at THI for the BMBF FH-Impuls concomitant research transfer workshop. The aim of the event was to strengthen the strategic partnerships between the funded universities and their practical partners from industry and commerce.



The participants of the Transfer Workshop 2019 in front of the CARISSMA research and test centre in Ingolstadt (source: THI).

The transfer workshop at THI – the second of its kind after the 2018 kick-off event in Hamburg – focused on the question of how bilateral and project-related co-operation can develop into a real network and a partnership that is fully embraced in practice. Representatives of THI and from industry and research presented their experiences and expectations to the respective partners. A further topic was how FH-Impuls partners could be effectively integrated in the research profile of the funded universities in the long term. In addition to workshops, short lectures and discussions, the guests also had the opportunity to visit laboratories so as to become more familiar with THI. A driving test was demonstrated in the CARISSMA hall, allowing participants to gain first-hand experience of research into vehicle safety.



A driving test was demonstrated in the CARISSMA hall (sources: THI).

THI President Prof. Walter Schober: “We are pleased that the BMBF has provided us with a strategically oriented funding instrument in the form of the FH-Impuls programme which we can use to cooperate with partners from the region over a much longer period than usual. The second FH-Impuls transfer workshop at THI offered a suitable platform to strengthen and intensify our partnerships”.

The FH-Impuls programme is a central BMBF funding measure for universities of applied sciences that are strong in research. THI is one of ten universities of applied sciences in Germany and the only one in Bavaria to be included in the funding programme in 2017. Over an initial period of four years, the BMBF is providing THI with funding of nearly EUR 6 million for the SAFIR research partnership, which THI has established with more than 20 small and medium-sized enterprises, automotive manufacturers and suppliers, regional authorities and public protagonists.

THI and its partners are joining forces to carry out research into innovative technologies in vehicle and traffic safety – specifically in the following areas: simulation-based test systems for the pre-crash phase, test methods for global safety, global safety system and safe electric mobility. The aim is to ensure that the insights generated by SAFIR are directly applicable in the region.

## ***Idea workshop and networking event: taking big strides towards the intensification phase***

“Everything begins with an idea” – with this mindset we have also initiated the brainstorming process for the second potential funding phase of SAFIR under the FH-Impuls programme. After just under three years, the SAFIR team is already preparing its application for further funding from 2021 onwards.

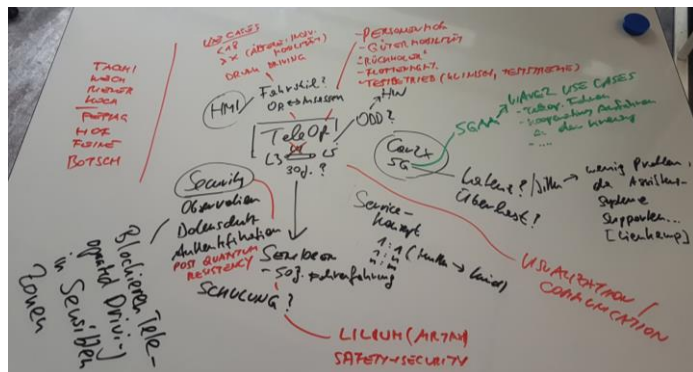
The workshop that took place at THI at the end of May focused on coming up with ideas for new research projects. Professors and employees from other disciplines represented at the university were also invited to this event, thereby enabling an interdisciplinary approach. Existing ideas from an initial ideas workshop (held in November 2018) were revisited and in some cases further elaborated. A lot of time was spent on generating and discussing new research topics. The aim was for participants to be able to collaborate on a wide range of ideas by means of a kind of World Café. A total of nine new ideas for the intensification phase emerged in the course of the two-hour workshop:



Participants of the 2019 network meeting at the get-together prior to the event (source: THI).

- Database for critical traffic scenarios
- Accident data recorder
- Hybrid AI methods for prediction models
- Automotive safety, engineering & testing
- Implementation of SOTIF (safety of the intended functionality) + validation
- Energy management system
- HD map, localisation, OSI
- Indoor, outdoor, hill, first mile
- Human factors for vehicle safety

The project proposals generated were presented in the morning, leading into the Advisory Board meeting in the afternoon. Here, future expectations of the SAFIR network were elaborated. The START-STOP-CONTINUE method was used to determine which activities the management team were to continue, what was no longer desired and which elements were to be initiated in the future. Finally, the criteria for evaluating project proposals were established in the Innovation Hub. The project ideas from the ideas workshop and the network event will now be evaluated at a so-called Innovation Hub by an interdisciplinary team. The SAFIR Steering Committee will then decide which ideas are to be developed for the funding phase from 2021 onwards.



Creative brainstorming for the intensification phase of SAFIR (source: THI).

We wish you all a pleasant and relaxing summer and look forward to working on the SAFIR project with you in the months to come!

**You are also welcome to visit us on our website:**  
<https://www.thi.de/forschung/safir/>

Since SAFIR's future is to be shaped by as many internal and external stimuli as possible, the management team organised a partner network meeting at the end of June which was combined with the third SAFIR Advisory Board meeting. The interactive workshop in the morning provided an initial overview of the current status of the individual SAFIR research projects and the relevant framework conditions of the intensification phase. Afterwards, it was the turn of our partners and professors to develop new ideas.