

Heidelberg Railway City (Bahnstadt): Ground-breaking Ceremony for Max-Jarecki-Foundation Building

On Thursday, May 20, 2010, on the Heidelberg Bahnstadt premises, the ground-breaking ceremony for the first research and laboratory building "Skylabs" of the Max Jarecki Foundation took place. Presiding were Dr. Henry Jarecki, who established the foundation; Prof. Dr. Peter Frankenberg, Minister of Science, Research and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg; Heidelberg's mayor Dr. Eckart Würzner; first deputy mayor Bernd Stadel; Prof. Dr. Bernhard Eitel, vice chancellor of Heidelberg University; Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüdiger Siewert, Chief Medical Director at Heidelberg University Hospitals; Dr. Gerhard Vogel, President of the Rhine-Neckar Chamber of Industry & Commerce; and Helmut Schleweis, Chairman of the Sparkasse Heidelberg.

Investment of 60 million euros

Dr. Henry Jarecki, whose family has been connected with Heidelberg for more than a hundred years, stated: "It is a great honor for me to take part in the development of this important new part of the great city of Heidelberg. With my commitment here I hope to express my appreciation for what this wonderful city has done for my family and me. The Bahnstadt Campus II will strengthen Heidelberg's position at the top of global innovation. The cooperation with companies and other institutes at Campus II will not only give a boost to top-level basic research; it will also have a positive effect on the transformation of research results into practical applications that can be transferred into useful commercial products, ready for worldwide marketing."

Optimal conditions for technology transfer

Science Minister Prof. Dr. Peter Frankenberg still sees a considerable potential for further high-tech start-ups in the Rhine-Neckar Region: "Therefore, the City of Heidelberg was absolutely right in deciding to open the abandoned freight and marshalling yard to research institutes and science-related companies. If established companies settle here they will be able to offer graduates jobs close to the university. Newly founded high-tech companies can be offered laboratory and office spaces at moderate prices, which will facilitate their business start-up. This creates optimal conditions for technology transfer in Heidelberg."

Strengthening and developing Heidelberg's position as a center of science

Heidelberg's mayor Dr. Eckart Würzner acknowledged the foundation's extraordinary commitment to Heidelberg's future Bahnstadt district: "Dr. Jarecki, I would like to thank you and the Max Jarecki Foundation today for investing 60 million euros in Heidelberg as a location for science, thus offering science and research the chance to keep developing freely. This is an extraordinary milestone on Heidelberg's road to strengthening and expanding its position as a center of science.

19,000 square meters (204,300 square feet) of laboratory and office space

On a site of 7400 square meters an ultra-modern combination of laboratory and office spaces is being constructed in a prominent location in the center of the Bahnstadt. The new building with a rental space of around 19,000 square meters (204,300 square feet) will be ready for occupancy at the beginning of 2012. The laboratory and office building is the first new construction in a prominent corner location of Campus II. With this building, the Max Jarecki Foundation marks the visible beginning of their commitment to the Heidelberg Bahnstadt. FOM Real Estate GmbH (Heidelberg) is charged with the project management.

The building offers innovative companies in the fields of biotechnology and information and communication technology much space for development. The Max Jarecki Foundation holds options for additional construction areas, providing companies with excellent conditions for expansion in the immediate vicinity.

[For more information on Heidelberg's new district "Bahnstadt"](#)

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