



TOMORROW TODAYSOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS
AND SOCIETY





f.l.t.r.:

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Managing Director Finance, Processes, Administration

Dlin Dr.in Brigitte Bach,

Spokesperson of the Managing Board

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Scientific Director

WE ARE
EXPANDING
EXCELLENCE
IN APPLIED
RESEARCH

Research & development is the central driver of innovation for economy and society, secures jobs and prosperity, strengthens Austria as a business location and contributes to technological sovereignty. Applied research provides solutions for the major challenges of our time.

The AIT Austrian Institute of Technology focuses on the two strategic priorities "Sustainable and resilient infrastructures" and "Digital transformation of industry and society".

Business, society and the public sector need first-class expertise in these areas. With our knowledge, the AIT is more relevant than ever. We work together with our partners on projects that have an impact on industry and society.

We are developing the strong position of the AIT along the strategic guidelines outlined in this booklet and are thus further expanding our excellence in applied research.

AIT IN A NUTSHELL

Applied research is the most important driver for innovation, secures prosperity and jobs and strengthens Austria as a business location. AIT Austrian Institute of Technology develops solutions for the major challenges of our time ("Triple Transition") - for people, for companies and for the public sector:

- ecological
- digital
- human

The AIT is a leader in all of these areas. On the one hand, this concerns the development of specific methods and technologies and, on the other, an integrative systems approach.

Sustainable solutions for economy and society

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology...

- is Austria's largest research and technology organization (RTO) with currently 1,527 employees.
- acts as a **bridge** between scientific research and technology utilization.
- turns scientific ideas into innovations.
- works closely with **partners** from universities, other RTOs, industry and the public sector.
- is an **essential network node** in the Austrian and European research and and innovation system.

- supports key industries with medium to long-term long-term challenges through comprehensive research.
- identifies key technologies in the areas of the research focus and builds up corresponding technological expertise.

The 7 AIT Centers





Vision, Automation & Control – Increasing sustainability and efficiency through automation



Transport Technologies – Sustainable mobility



Technology Experience – Putting people at the center



Health & Bioresources – Keeping the environment and people healthy



Digital Safety & Security – Exploiting the potential of digitization and minimizing risks



Innovation Systems & Policy – Understanding and promoting innovation and transformation

AIT develops methods, algorithms, technologies and solutions in the **two** interlinked research areas

- sustainable and resilient infrastructures, particularly in the areas of energy, transportation and health
- digital transformation of industry and society

Shareholder Vision

The owners of the AIT (BMK and industry) have defined the following strategic priorities:

- developing a climate-neutral, digitised and competitive, resilient economy and the infrastructures and systems required for this
- expanding the global market positions in the innovative areas of strength of Austria as a business location, as well as the development and expansion of Austrian technological competence in performance areas of the highest relevance
- securing system-critical competences to strengthen European technological sovereignty and societal resilience

FACTS & FIGURES

1.527

employees from more than 50 countries

199,7 Mio.

Euros operating performance (2023)

7

Center

625

publications in peer-reviewed journals and conferences (2023)

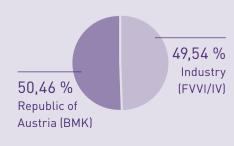
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patents granted (2023)

35,6 MIO. EURO

Euros EU funds raised (2023)

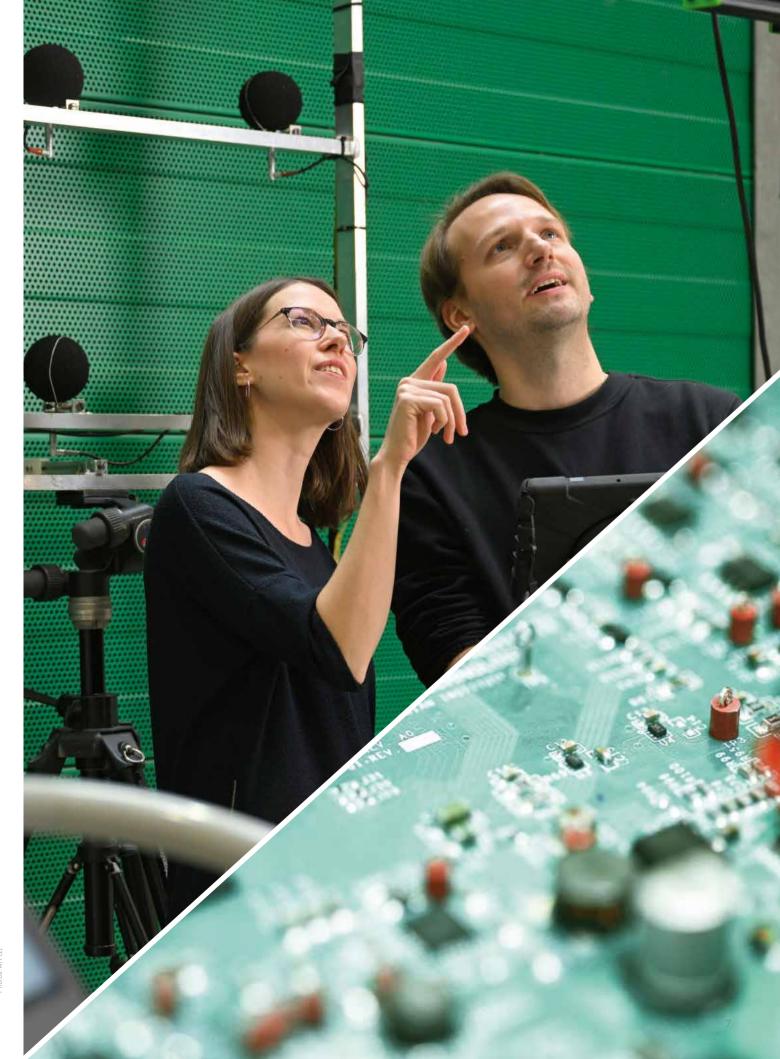
SHAREHOLDER:



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WHY DO WE DO RESEARCH?

From climate change to digitization – AIT develops sustainable and resilient solutions for Austria's economy and society.



AIT researchers develop technologies and solutions for future efficient and resilient systems and act as a catalyst for the "Triple Transition" the simultaneous ecological and digital transformation that is intended to be humane.



SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

The world today is facing complex, multi-layered problems - including climate change, an ageing population, increasing urbanization and disruptive changes through digitalization and automation with significant social and economic impacts. Technologies and their considered use play a central role in all of these areas.

One of AIT's overarching goals is to develop a climate-neutral, digitalized, competitive, resilient economy and the necessary infrastructures and systems. AIT works closely with the international, European and national framework conditions – such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the European Green Deal and the European Digital Strategy as well as the Austrian RTI Strategy.

Establishing climate-neutral and sustainable solutions

Climate change poses major challenges for the entire global community. On the one hand, this concerns the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: Companies, transport systems, agriculture and every citizen are called upon to make a contribution. On the other hand, systems of the future must be able to cope with climate change.

In order to develop effective solutions, both technological and social innovations as well as changes to the overall system are required. The AIT is active in a whole range of areas - including the decarbonization of industry and the development of more heat-tolerant crops – and acts as a catalyst for transformation.

Exploiting the potential of digitization

Modern digitization and automation technologies have enormous transformational potential. Research and innovation in the field of digital technologies and the application of advanced methods of artificial intelligence are seen as crucial for productivity growth, competitiveness, overcoming the shortage of skilled workers, securing a high-quality healthcare system, environmentally friendly energy systems and the transformation to a sustainable circular economy.

At the same time, threats to security (cyber security) and democracy (disinformation) must be averted. The AIT places great importance on a human-centered approach to ensure that society and companies benefit from trustworthy digital technologies.

Developing technologies for Austria as a business location

As a small country with few natural resources, Austria relies above all on bright minds and good ideas. In recent decades, Austria has been able to score points on the world market in many areas with excellent products and services – Austria generates almost two thirds of its wealth from exports. To keep it that way, constant further development in the areas of strength is necessary. Through its close partnerships with domestic companies of all sizes – from SMEs to large-scale industry – and its strong networking in the European innovation system, AIT makes a significant contribution to the development and expansion of Austrian technological expertise.

Increasing resilience

The crises of recent years (including the coronavirus pandemic, rising energy prices and supply chain problems) and the advancing climate change have clearly shown that our current life and economic system is vulnerable to disruption. Increased efforts are therefore now being made to strengthen resilience and preparedness for future threats and crises. Research, technology and innovation play a major role in this. It is crucial to keep an eye on entire systems and to design and optimize them in such a way that they are inherently robust and resilient.

Securing technological sovereignty

An important thrust of European policy is to secure and expand the continent's technological sovereignty. In many research topics and projects, the AIT contributes to securing and expanding system-critical expertise in Europe. This know-how is an important part of the attractiveness of the location and increases security.

HOW DOWE WORK?

AIT is committed to excellent research, takes a systemic view on transformation processes, works in an interdisciplinary and international manner, upholds diversity and operates a first-class research infrastructure.



EXCELLENCE, DIVERSITY AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Excellent research

AIT is committed to excellence and claims selected areas of technology leadership in all topics in which it is active. The employees carry out scientifically correct and objective work and live a culture of trust, responsibility and cooperation. AIT's claim to excellence is reflected in all areas – from recruiting and an elaborate PhD program to quality management at all levels, the infrastructure and the establishment of Principal Scientists who develop and advance new subject areas at the cutting edge of technology.

System perspective enables resilient solutions

Most of the challenges faced by the AIT are complex and multi-layered. Only a systemic perspective allows understanding and mastering this complexity and the interdependencies. If you understand the system as a whole, you can also design it in such a way that it is more resilient to external disruptions and changes in environmental conditions. The systems view that AIT has developed in its fields of activity complements the excellent knowledge of specific methods and technologies.

Living interdisciplinarity

Solutions to complex problems often arise at the interfaces between different specialist disciplines. For this reason, AIT promotes interdisciplinary and diverse teams that bring together international experts from different fields with different perspectives.

This not only results in better technological solutions, but also enables new opportunities for business models. In addition, interdisciplinary collaboration with universities and strategic partners from industry and the public sector is promoted.

Catalyst for transformation

Innovations should be systematically used to catalyze transformation processes and move them in a desired direction. This requires mastery of the entire transformation chain – from system knowledge, strategies and technology development to the realization of demonstrators and scaling up. It is also important to learn from the implementation and build up further system knowledge. AIT has excellent research, suitable structures and processes as well as foresight and monitoring methods to support the entire transformation chain.

AIT as a bridge

AIT acts as a bridge between scientific research and technology exploitation, helping to turn scientific ideas into innovations. To this end, the AIT works closely with partners from universities, other research and technology organizations (RTOs), industry and the public sector. This enables the implementation of new scientific concepts, methods and technologies in industry and the public sector.

International network node

Today, research and development are more international than ever. Therefore, AIT aspires close cooperation with the most suitable institutions and researchers – in Europe and beyond. This is reflected in numerous joint research projects and publications. AIT is an important network node in the Austrian and European research and innovation system. A high level of internationality is maintained in recruitment: Experts from more than 50 nations are currently conducting research at AIT.

Diversity inspires innovation

AIT is convinced that diversity is enriching and that everyone must have the opportunity to develop their own potential. This is not only a question of equality, but also enhances the quality of work: the more diverse and interdisciplinary the teams are, the more creative and holistic the technologies and solutions are. By practicing equality, the potential of talent should be fully exploited. The AIT therefore lives by the motto "Diversity inspires innovation".

A gender & diversity strategy has been firmly institutionalized. Within this framework a series of measures are implemented; their impact is recorded through ongoing monitoring. For example, a "Female Leadership Development Program" was launched, in which young female employees in particular are supported in their leadership skills.

First-class research infrastructure

AIT operates a research infrastructure that is competitive throughout Europe, providing excellent working conditions for AIT researchers and enabling cooperation with first-class partners from industry and science. This includes a DC Lab, a City Intelligence Lab, a User Experience Lab, a Battery Lab, a Large Scale Robotics Lab and a Quantum Lab. The laboratory infrastructure is constantly being expanded - currently with an investment volume of more than 30 million euros. A Solid State Battery Lab and a new heat pump lab are currently under construction. A high-performance and highly secure IT infrastructure is also being continuously expanded.

The AIT has excellent research, suitable structures and processes as well as a first-class research infrastructure.

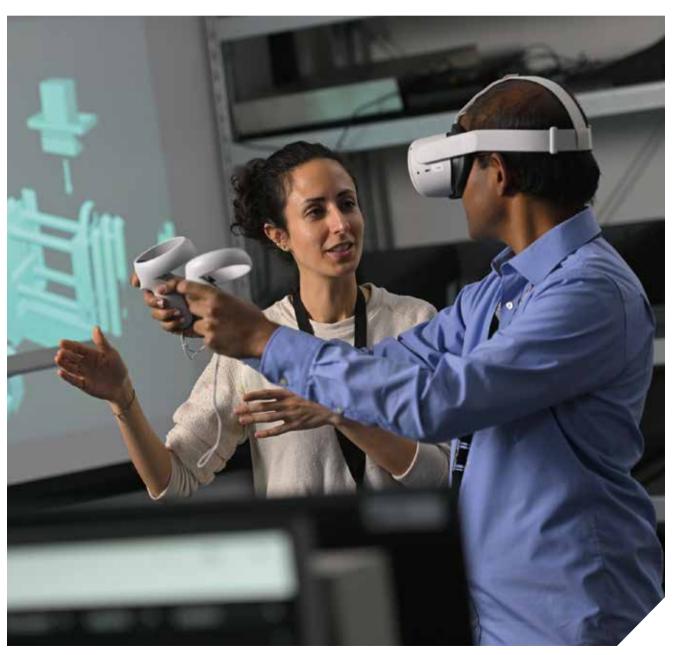


Photo: AIT

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WHAT DO WE DO?

AIT develops methods, algorithms, technologies and solutions in the two interlinked research areas

- sustainable and resilient infrastructures, particularly in the areas of energy, transportation and health
- digital transformation of industry and society.



SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURES

AIT develops technologies for sustainable energy and transportation systems as well as for selected areas of the future healthcare system.

SHAPING A CLEAN AND SAFE ENERGY FUTURE

The energy systems of the future will differ significantly from those of today. We will see a further increase in decentralized generation and greater integration between different sectors such as electricity, heating, cooling and transport. There will be an increasing electrification of various sectors, including transportation, heating (heat pumps) and industrial processes that have traditionally relied on fossil fuels. Energy storage (batteries, hydrogen, thermal energy storage) will play a crucial role in balancing supply and demand, smoothing the fluctuations of renewable energy sources and improving the reliability and resilience of grids. In addition, digital technologies and artificial intelligence will contribute to the intelligent management of energy flows.

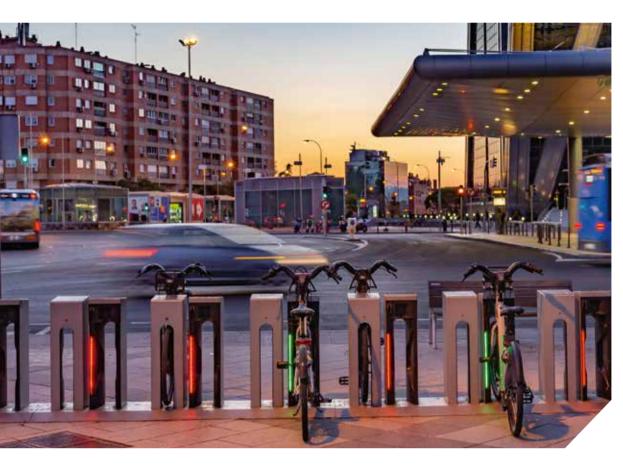
AIT has in-depth technological knowledge and excellent system

expertise in all of these areas. In the innovation network NEFI (New Energy for Industry), which is coordinated by AIT, solutions for the decarbonization of industry are being developed and implemented in the form of demonstrators. Other key topics are power electronics, hydrogen technology, hybrid power plants including business models and industrial process heat. An increasingly important area of research is climate-resilient urban planning.

A first-class laboratory infrastructure has been set up – including high-voltage and direct current laboratories as well as energy system analyses and a heat pump laboratory. This is complemented by research infrastructures such as the City Intelligence Lab and the Virtual Industry Lab, which are based on digital methods and tools for databased analyses and visualizations.

The following thematic priorities have been set for the current strategy period:

- Establishment of a 100 kW airto-water heat pump test stand for applications in large-volume buildings and apartment blocks
- Lighthouse project "Accelerated Energy System Transformation Exploiting the Potential of AI" to research AI-based methods for the planning and operation of energy systems (in collaboration with the TU Delft)
- Establishment of the AIT H2Lab for the development, testing and evaluation of hydrogen technologies
- Further development of the Virtual Industry Lab and the City Intelligence Lab



The mobility system of the future should be more sustainable, more efficient, safer and more accessible. A whole range of innovative technologies play a decisive role in this – from electrification to lightweight construction.

KEEPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE HEALTHY

The healthcare system of the future will change significantly as a result of data-supported and data-driven innovations, digitized patient portals combined with telemedicine, increasingly personalized medicine and a focus on preventive healthcare. In addition, human health is closely linked to that of plants and animals as well as a resilient, healthy environment.

In this context, the AIT focuses on selected topics in the fields of health and agricultural technology in order to increase the resilience and sustainability of both systems and to exploit the potential of digitization. One important research direction is the identification of disease biomarkers using non-invasive or minimally invasive procedures ("liquid biopsy") and the development of low-cost biosensors for preventive health

monitoring and personalized medicine. Al-based systems for the automated analysis of medical signals, e.g. for neurological or cardiovascular diseases, are also being developed. An industry-compatible modular telehealth platform is available for integrated care and prevention, which is already being used successfully in standard care for patients with heart failure, for example.

In addition, AIT has built up extensive expertise in microbiome applications for resistant crops in order to drive the transition to a healthy, environmentally friendly and resource-efficient food system. AIT is a partner in the national cluster of excellence "Microbiomes Drive Planetary Health" in order to intensify the synergies between ecological and medical research for innovations.

The following thematic priorities have been defined for the current strategy period:

- Biomarker-based point-of-care diagnostic systems
- Al-based software for neurological and cardiovascular diseases
- Digital patient portals for networked healthcare
- Resilience of crops against and climate change

ENABLING SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

The mobility system of the future should be more sustainable, more efficient, safer and more accessible. Several innovative technologies will play a decisive role in this: Lightweight materials will enable to reduce vehicle weight, thereby increasing efficiency and reducing environmental impact. Battery technologies and a fastcharging infrastructure will help to drive forward the electrification of the transport sector. Intelligent assistance systems and autonomous driving will increase road safety and optimize traffic flow, while intelligent traffic systems will enable the integration of autonomous vehicles. The transport infrastructure also faces major challenges.

AIT has many years of experience in these areas as well as highly specialized laboratories that form the basis for numerous international collaborations. In the field of high-quality light metal alloys and their

sustainable production, the entire development chain is covered. including accompanying simulation, and innovative 3D printing processes (wire-based additive manufacturing) are being developed. Research is also being conducted into a broad spectrum of battery technologies, from basic research into material optimization and production technologies on a semi-industrial scale to sensor technology for cell monitoring and system design. Other focal points are the electrification of vehicles, including the integration of e-mobility into the infrastructure. AIT also conducts intensive research into transport infrastructure, its maintenance and road safety. This includes, for example, the systematic monitoring and evaluation of transport infrastructure (bridges, tracks, road conditions, etc.) or an objective assessment of road

The following thematic priorities have been set for the current strategy period:

- Digitization and improving the sustainability of production processes in the areas of light metals and battery technologies
- Integration of more efficient power electronics and innovative heating/ ventilation/air conditioning systems in vehicles
- Development of materials and production technologies for solidstate batteries
- Prototype production on an industrial scale using wire-based additive manufacturing
- New test vehicles (two- and four-wheeled) that contactlessly record traffic routes and their surroundings and map them in a "digital twin"

AIT has specialized in selected topics in the areas of health and bioresources in order to increase resilience and sustainability and to exploit the potential of digitization.



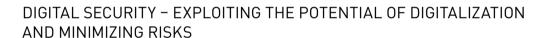
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DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF INDUSTRY AND SOCIETY

Digitization and automation have enormous transformation potential: they are changing the principles by which industries work and do business, as well as the way individuals and society communicate and interact.

Artificial intelligence is a key cross-cutting issue here – as is the integration of the human factor into technical systems.



The digitization of almost all areas of life has rapidly changed the economy and many mechanisms of our society. This change has been made possible by modern information and communication technologies (ICT) in conjunction with the networking of almost everyone around the globe. The transformation process is gaining further momentum through the networking of numerous physical objects (Internet of Things). These developments open up huge potential for new applications, business areas and value streams, but also entail risks.

Since its foundation, the AIT has had a strong focus on digital security. This includes, for example:

- Technologies and methods for data protection, digital identity and access management
- Cyber security techniques and training to protect critical

- infrastructures (power plants, energy and transport networks)
- Security by design-based development and verification of securitycritical software
- State-of-the-art sensor networks for situational awareness in crisis and disaster management
- Quantum communication and quantum key distribution (QKD), including post-quantum cryptography methods
- multimodal (including text, image, audio, video, time series, geodata and biometric) data analysis

A key tool here is the further development and application of advanced methods of artificial intelligence. In the scientific field, there is also a strong focus on "enabling digital technologies" such as photonics or wireless communication (6G).

In the current strategy period, the aim is to use next-generation digital technologies to make a significant contribution to the resilience and security of critical infrastructures and the protection of our society. This includes cyber security technologies and industrial-grade quantum communication systems. In cooperation with authorities and European partners, the AIT is also involved as the national coordination center of the Gaia-X Hub Austria in the development of next-generation data platforms (data spaces) to support the EU goals regarding digital and data sovereignty.



INCREASING SUSTAINABILITY AND EFFICIENCY THROUGH AUTOMATION

Modern automation solutions – whether in the form of (semi-) autonomous machines or intelligent assistance systems – enable higher quality, productivity and efficiency in manufacturing, the service sector and administration. They can also make a significant contribution to optimizing resource and energy consumption, reducing emissions and waste, mitigating the shortage of skilled workers and improving human-machine interaction.

To this end, methods and technologies are being developed with a strong focus on autonomous working machines, intelligent assistance systems, high-performance image processing and inspection systems as well as industrial automation solutions.

This includes:

- 3D sensor technology, environment recognition, mapping and localization as well as navigation and control of autonomous systems
- Systems for surface inspection, metrology and quality control with the highest requirements in terms of speed, resolution, robustness and complex surface properties
- System analysis, sensor fusion, real-time optimization and adaptive and learning control of mechatronic components and systems
- Intelligent process automation solutions for the manufacturing industry

The use of artificial intelligence methods is currently a key focus. This is reflected, for example, in the large-scale lighthouse project "AI-supported sustainable automation and robotics", in which, among other things, reliable autonomous loading and unloading processes are developed under various environmental conditions and implemented in the AIT Large Scale Robotics Lab.

Furthermore, novel concepts for inline quality control of industrial production processes, such as steel production or die-casting and injection moulding, are being researched, in which innovative automation solutions are combined with robotics, modern real-time optimization and learning processes and inline inspection methods to enable resource-efficient production down to batch size 1 at the highest quality level.

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Digitization and automation will continue to advance in the coming years and affect almost all areas of people's lives. This makes it all the more important to clearly define the role of people in relation to technology.

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTER

As digitization and automation continue to advance in the coming years and will affect almost all areas of people's lives, the role of people in relation to technology is all the more important and must be clearly defined. The goal is that digitization and automation not only increase efficiency and innovation, but also preserve human values, dignity and well-being.

AIT is therefore working intensively on technologies that are essential for the future relationship between humans and machines. Hybrid worlds (interaction between the real world and simulated worlds) and the field of extended reality (XR), which includes virtual reality (VR), mixed reality (MR) and augmented reality (AR), play a major role here. The aim is to expand human capabilities and support human users with new technologies. Topics include the development of training solutions in XR for first responders, XR

applications to increase occupational safety, the development of future digital interfaces and the development of solutions in terms of Industry 5.0, diversity and sustainability.

In the Technology Experience Lab (TX.Lab), future user experiences are examined holistically and solutions are developed with the help of the latest hardware and software. The methods and technologies developed for industry, the public sector and organizations are used in a broad spectrum of digitization and automation – from complex working environments to mobility, logistics and training.

Priorities for the current strategy period are

 comprehensive measurement of human behavior to develop humancentric digital innovations based on meaningfulness

- multisensory XR experience and innovative human-machine interfaces tailored to complex industrial needs
- human-centered automation and assistance in conjunction with hybrid approaches
- Diversity-conscious design of technologies, taking social and ecological change into account
- Expansion of the Intelligent Interfaces Innovation Lab (III.Lab) founded in cooperation with the University of Salzburg a think tank and experimental field for future human-computer interaction research in Austria.

UNDERSTANDING AND PROMOTING INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION



Newly emerging innovations and technologies have a wide range of socio-economic effects on the ongoing transformation processes.

Newly emerging innovations and technologies – for example in relation to artificial intelligence, biotechnologies or climate-relevant technologies – have a variety of socio-economic effects on the ongoing transformation processes; some even have a disruptive effect. In order to better understand and possibly positively influence transformation processes, AIT is also working intensively on the topic of innovation systems and policy. This inter- and transdisciplinary research encompasses all AIT research areas and complements technology development. This ranges from future energy systems to automation solutions, from the circular economy to ethical questions of artificial intelligence.

Specifically, it covers the following four areas:

- innovation ecosystems
- industrial transformation
- transformative innovation policy
- socio-technical futures

Extensive databases and indicators have recently been established to empirically record innovation activity and the transformation of innovation ecosystems – including the EUPRO database, the Austrian Startup Monitor and the European Manufacturing Survey. These allow an analysis of innovation dynamics and research into the connections between innovation and the socio-economic development of regions or countries. Major strategic foresight projects are carried out on behalf of the European Commission and other partners in order to anticipate future developments.

In the current strategy period, activities on strategic foresight, horizon scanning (early identification and evaluation of new technologies) and scenario development for emerging technologies and their social impact are being driven forward. The results are embedded in policy and industry strategy processes – both at European and national level. The results help, for example, in the development of a targeted innovation policy to promote decarbonization and digitization. They will also be incorporated into the further development of AIT's various research areas and are therefore important for the overall development of AIT.

STRATEGIC GUIDELINES



Alexander Svejkovsky (Managing Director Finance, Processes, Administration), Brigitte Bach (Spokesperson of Managing Board) und Andreas Kugi (Scientific Director) are leading the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology into the future (f.l.t.r.).

Core Values of AIT

- Strong commitment to excellence and claim to technology leadership
- Scientifically correct and objective work
- Open-mindedness, curiosity, culture of innovation, trust, responsibility and collaboration
- Internationally oriented, diverse, multidisciplinary teams with complementary strengths
- Culture of open, transparent and appreciative communication and respectful interaction with one another
- Open door, open ears, open heart

Technology transfer

AIT is committed to excellent research and its implementation for the economy and for the benefit of society.
AIT follows clearly defined principles when using the knowledge it has acquired. The AIT Intellectual Property (IP) Strategy defines a strategic approach to service inventions, patents and exploitation.

The AIT Startup and Entrepreneurship Program specifically promotes the entrepreneurial spirit of researchers; AIT supports founders with training and expertise in cooperation with a strong startup network. In the past three years, six start-up companies have been founded, many of which have already found external financing and are successful on the market.

Enhancement of scientific excellence

IInternationally, there is strong competition for the best minds. By revising the AIT PhD program, the institute offers doctoral candidates the best conditions and stimulating supervision (e.g. mentoring, training, networking events, establishment of a PhD coordinator and thesis committee). Joint PhD programs have been set up with TU Wien, TU Graz, TU Delft, Tufts University (Boston) and the Université Gustave Eiffel, among others.

In the Principal Scientist
Programme, outstanding researchers
at AIT carry out excellent flagship
projects in selected strategic subject
areas (e.g. artificial intelligence,
human-machine interaction, image
analysis, plant breeding, mobile
communications or energy system
planning).

Sustainability management

AIT is committed to sustainability both in its entire service portfolio and in its own business activities. The responsible use of resources and good corporate governance are an integral part of AIT's self-image and as such are firmly anchored in all business areas and processes from the content of research projects, human resources management and gender & diversity activities to sustainable procurement, sustainable building and mobility management and corresponding compliance, which ensures adherence to important standards and rules of the company.

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AIT AT A GLANCE

Research and development is the most important driver for innovation and makes economy and society resilient for the challenges of the future.

Applied research secures prosperity and jobs and strengthens Austria as a business location.

With currently 1,527 employees, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology is Austria's largest research and technology organization (RTO) and acts as a bridge between basic research and industrial application.

AIT develops solutions for the major challenges of our time – for people, for companies and for the public sector.

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AIT collaborates closely with universities, other RTOs, industry and the public sector.

AIT is an essential network node of the Austrian and European research and innovation system.

