# Press information

**German-American exchange on microelectronics, innovation ecosystems, and technological sovereignty**

## International Semiconductor Delegation Visits Fraunhofer ISIT in Itzehoe

**Itzehoe, May 11 2026 – Fraunhofer ISIT welcomed a German-American delegation last week as part of the *German-American Semiconductor Cities Network (GASCN)* in Itzehoe. The visit focused on international exchange regarding current developments in microelectronics, the establishment of resilient semiconductor ecosystems, and strategies to foster innovation, talent development, and technology transfer.**

The German-American Semiconductor Cities Network brings together stakeholders from German and American semiconductor regions to strengthen transatlantic dialogue between research, industry, policymakers, and regional innovation ecosystems. The network is organized and administered by the American Council on Germany with support from the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany, funded through the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE).

In November of last year, the German participants visited innovation and research hubs in Albany, New York, and Austin, Texas, as part of a study tour to the United States. This year's return visit brought the American delegation to Munich, Hamburg, and Itzehoe.

The program in Itzehoe focused on Fraunhofer ISIT, InnoQuarter, and other stakeholders within the regional semiconductor and innovation ecosystem. The delegation gained insights into research and development activities in advanced microelectronics and power electronics technologies, as well as the close collaboration between science, industry, and regional development.

Institute directors Alexander Heuer, Fabian Lofink presented the technological orientation and research activities of Fraunhofer ISIT. The program also included a window tour given by Oliver Schwarzelbach through the institute's research infrastructure, providing the international guests with insights into development and cleanroom processes. In addition, site partner Vishay presented its activities at the Itzehoe location.

“The semiconductor industry is facing major technological and geopolitical challenges worldwide. International cooperation and exchange between research and innovation ecosystems are essential to further strengthen technological sovereignty, innovation capacity, and resilient value chains,” said Alexander Heuer, Director of Fraunhofer ISIT.

In addition to research institutions and industrial companies, the Germany tour also focused on topics such as quantum technologies, AI applications, talent development, and regional innovation strategies. Other program stops included research institutions and companies in Munich and Hamburg.

With this visit, Fraunhofer ISIT underlined the international visibility of the Itzehoe site as part of a strong European microelectronics ecosystem and highlighted the importance of transatlantic cooperation for the future of the semiconductor industry.



## Kontakt

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Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, headquartered in Germany, is one of the world's leading organizations for applied research. It plays a key role in the innovation process by focusing its research activities on future-oriented key technologies and transferring research results to industry in order to strengthen economic competitiveness and benefit society as a whole.
Founded in 1949, the organization currently operates 74 institutes and research units throughout Germany. Approximately 30,000 employees, most of whom have backgrounds in natural sciences or engineering, generate an annual financial volume of €3.6 billion. Of this amount, €3.2 billion is attributable to contract research.