

Evonik allocates € 100 million for digitalization and enters into cooperation with IBM and the University of Duisburg–Essen

6th of July 2017

Ruben Thiel
External Communications
Phone +49 201 177-4299
ruben.thiel@evonik.com

Essen, Germany. Evonik is setting aside € 100 million for the topic of digitalization and is also entering into a strategic partnership with IBM and the University of Duisburg–Essen, aimed at forging ahead with the digital change in the chemical industry. “For us as a specialty chemicals company, digitalization brings with it a world of possibilities. Now it’s about identifying them, testing them out, and being able to put them to good use. This is why we took this initiative.” explains Christian Kullmann, chairman of the Executive Board of Evonik Industries AG.

By providing the financial means and establishing the new strategic partnerships, the specialty chemicals company is aiming to further strengthen its position in the digital world. Henrik Hahn, who coordinates digitalization activities for the Group in his role as chief digital officer (CDO), said, “By the year 2020, we aim to see around € 100 million going into development and testing of digital technologies and the development of digital skills. It’s not just about data and technology, but especially about new business models, solutions, services for customers, and training qualified staff.”

The partnership with IBM will see Evonik benefit from the latest technologies and innovative projects IBM is spearheading, encompassing technologies such as cognitive and cloud based technologies such as blockchain, Internet of Things, and Industry 4.0 amongst others. The partnership also allows Evonik to tap into IBM’s R&D technological breakthroughs such as Quantum computing.

In July 2017 the first pilot project will start with Evonik and IBM set to co-develop a Cognitive Evonik-specific Chemical and Life Science Knowledge Corpus based on data analyzed by IBM Watson Explorer and Watson Knowledge Studio. Watson Explorer is IBM’s cognitive search and content analysis platform; Watson Knowledge Studio is the company’s cloud-based app that enables developers to identify relationships in unstructured data and can be used in

Evonik Industries AG
Rellinghauser Straße 1-11
45128 Essen
Germany
Phone +49 201 177-01
Fax +49 201 177-3475
www.evonik.com

Supervisory Board
Dr. Werner Müller, Chairman

Executive Board
Christian Kullmann, Chairman
Thomas Wessel
Ute Wolf

Registered Office is Essen
Register Court Essen Local Court
Commercial Registry B 19474

Watson Explorer. The resulting insights from this solution will be made available as a Digital Advisory Services but also to be used for efficiency improvements.

Martina Koederitz, General Manager IBM Germany, Austria and Switzerland, said: “With Watson, IBM is creating the foundation for companies to make wise use of existing knowledge and to further develop it in the spirit of a learning organization. We are very pleased to partner with Evonik and bring our most advanced Cognitive and Cloud technologies and our newest research findings combined with our deep expertise, to support Evonik stand out and taking a pioneering role in the chemical industry in digital transformation.”

The new strategic cooperation between Evonik and the University of Duisburg–Essen (UDE) will focus on the people and skills at the center of digital transformation. Topics include, for example, interactive knowledge transfer and individually tailored training concepts in industrial practice. The cooperation will also look into the benefits of data exchange and digital business partnerships.

Prof. Ulrich Radtke, rector of the University Duisburg–Essen (UDE), said: “Digitalization is one of the key challenges of our time. It is a fascinating field of research because it has an impact on almost every aspect of our lives. The cooperation with Evonik offers us the chance to relate our expertise in the interaction of people and digital systems to industrial applications and to transfer our insight gained from fundamental research into practice more quickly.”

Evonik sees itself as a pioneer in digitalization within the chemical industry and in early 2017 founded Evonik Digital GmbH to develop and advance ideas in this area, even through unconventional ideas – focusing on new products and services that will also support the success of Evonik’s customers.



Dr. Henrik Hahn,
Chief Digital Officer (CDO) and
Chairman of the Management
Board of Evonik Digital GmbH



Martina Koederitz,
General Manager IBM Germany,
Austria, Switzerland



Professor Ulrich Radtke,
Rector of the University of
Duisburg-Essen



Digitalization 1:
Evonik regards itself as a pioneer
of digitalization in the chemical
industry and established Evonik
Digital GmbH in early 2017 to
focus on this topic.

Company information

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The focus on more specialty businesses, customer-orientated innovative prowess and a trustful and performance-oriented corporate culture form the heart of Evonik's corporate strategy. They are the lever for profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company. Evonik benefits specifically from its customer proximity and leading market positions. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world with more than 35,000 employees. In fiscal 2016, the enterprise generated sales of around €12.7 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.165 billion.

Information about IBM: <https://www.ibm.com/ibm/us/en/>

Informationen about Universität Duisburg–Essen: www.uni-due.de/en

Disclaimer

In so far as forecasts or expectations are expressed in this press release or where our statements concern the future, these forecasts, expectations or statements may involve known or unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual results or developments may vary, depending on changes in the operating environment. Neither Evonik Industries AG nor its group companies assume an obligation to update the forecasts, expectations or statements contained in this release.