

Press Release

New Managing Director for JOANNEUM RESEARCH

Heinz Mayer succeeds Wolfgang Pribyl as of 1 September 2021 and takes over the management of Austria's second largest non-university research organisation with headquarters in Graz.

Heinz Mayer (52) knows the company inside out, having previously headed the largest research unit at JOANNEUM RESEARCH, the DIGITAL Institute. He studied telematics at TU Graz, where he gained several years of experience as a university assistant. He then worked at Magna Steyr, including as head of the information management department. In 2007 Mayer moved to JOANNEUM RESEARCH and successfully acted as deputy institute director of DIGITAL, the Institute for Information and Communication Technologies, and as research group leader of the group "Image Analysis and Measurement Systems". In 2013, he took over the management of DIGITAL with 130 employees.

In the coming months, JOANNEUM RESEARCH will start preparing a new strategy document that will describe the path of the research company from 2023 onwards. "I am looking forward to the task of developing technologies for tomorrow together with the approximately 500 colleagues from different areas in order to provide solutions for the challenges of our time."

"With Heinz Mayer, JOANNEUM RESEARCH gains a managing director who has an excellent knowledge of the company and brings with him a wide range of in-depth expertise based on his experience. Digitisation is one of the major topics of the future, which must continue to be given special attention, especially in research. Thanks to his many years as head of the DIGITAL Institute at JR, Heinz Mayer is an excellent choice to continue JR's successful path on the one hand, while setting new priorities and to further develop the company over the next five years. I wish him every success in his new task and look forward to our continued cooperation," said Barbara Eibinger-Miedl, Styrian State Councillor for Science and Research.

JOANNEUM RESEARCH develops solutions and technologies for business and industry in a broad range of sectors and conducts cutting-edge research at an international level. Well embedded in the national and international innovation network, the researchers develop innovations in the three thematic areas of *Information and Production Technologies*, *Human Technology and Medicine*, and *Society and Sustainability*. JOANNEUM RESEARCH Forschungsgesellschaft mbH is owned by the

Province of Styria (80,75% of the shares), the BABEG - Kärntner Betriebsansiedlungs- & Beteiligungsgesellschaft (14,25%) and the Landesholding Burgenland (5%).

Digitisation and the Green Deal are the big issues of the future, and not only at the European level. The DIGITAL, MATERIALS, ROBOTICS, COREMED, HEALTH, LIFE and POLICIES research units located in Graz, Vienna, Klagenfurt, Weiz, Niklasdorf and Pinkafeld are ideally equipped for the upcoming challenges of our time.

"I am in the fortunate position of being able to take over an innovative and well-positioned company from my predecessor Wolfgang Pribyl. With foresight, for example, he launched the Research Axis South and brought the states of Carinthia and Burgenland on board. This strengthens our national and international visibility and the location," says the new managing director.

"Wolfgang Pribyl has led and developed the company very successfully over the past ten years. I would like to thank him for his great commitment," emphasises the Styrian State Councillor Eibinger-Miedl.

Facts & Figures JOANNEUM RESEARCH

About 500 employees

3 thematic areas

7 research units

6 locations (Graz, Vienna, Klagenfurt, Weiz, Niklasdorf, Pinkafeld)

Around 50 million in research output per year

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