The employee count at IKTS remained at the level of 2014. However, the number of scientists increased by 4.2 %. Salary adjustments in the employment contracts and the associated changes in employee grouping resulted in a slight change in the structure and growth in the group of graduates. At the Hermsdorf site, student employment was boosted through the cooperation with Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

Expansion of the research basis

Within the classic working field of IKTS, the area of additive manufacturing was expanded further. The extended equipment basis enables processing of oxide and non-oxide ceramics as well as integration of non-destructive test methods.

The Bio-Nanotechnology Applications Lab is operated by Fraunhofer IZI and Fraunhofer IKTS, and provides research infrastructure for handling interdisciplinary topics ranging from basic biomedical research and process development to validation of new technologies. With the biological and medical know-how of Fraunhofer IZI and the expertise in developing new ceramic materials and innovative measurement techniques of Fraunhofer IKTS, an ideal basis is provided for completion of international projects.

The working field of membrane technology has advanced to become a core activity in the US through the expansion of demonstration and test facilities at Fraunhofer CEI.

Budget and revenues

With an overall budget of 54.1 million euros in 2015, Fraunhofer IKTS is at the same level as the previous year. At 5.4 million euros, the investment budget for the institute was approximately 1.3 million euros higher than in 2014. Project-specific investment support from the Free State of Saxony totaling 2.76 million euros went towards energy and environmental technology as well as a Bio-Nanotechnology Applications Lab. The Hermsdorf site invested an additional 1.71 million euros for the battery pilot plant.

In line with the strategic realignment occurring at the Dresden-Klotzsche site, the operating budget was reduced to about 2.45 million euros while new working fields were solidified through investments and preliminary research projects. Over the short term, this means a reduction in the share of revenues from direct industry projects to 24.1 %, but over the long term it should significantly improve the competitiveness of the site.

IKTS revenues from industry of 16.1 million euros amounted to a financing share of 33.4 % from direct industry projects (36 % adjusted for the effects of integration). The best result was achieved by Hermsdorf with a share of 43.15 % and absolute industry revenues of 5.14 million euros.

Overall, the institute saw a sharp decline in funding from the Free State of Saxony and Thuringia to 1.5 million euros, due in part to shifting project start dates to the end of 2015 or to 2016. However, this was balanced out by a comparable increase in BMBF project volumes.

At 1.25 million euros, the EU project volume share was relatively low for IKTS; increasing this share remains a strategic goal of the institute. The different cost accounting methods used by the various funding agencies proved to be a challenge, causing uncertainty in the calculation of costs and hence in financial planning.

Personnel development

The employee count at IKTS remained at the level of 2014. However, the number of scientists increased by 4.2 %. Salary adjustments in the employment contracts and the associated changes in employee grouping resulted in a slight change in the structure and growth in the group of graduates. At the Hermsdorf site, student employment was boosted through the cooperation with Friedrich Schiller University Jena.
Revenue (in million euros) of Fraunhofer IKTS for the budget years 2010–2015

Personnel developments at Fraunhofer IKTS
Number of employees 2010–2015, full-time equivalents, personnel structure on December 31 of each year

1 Institute management of IKTS, f.l.t.r.: Prof. Michael Stelter, Dr. Christian Wunderlich, Prof. Alexander Michaelis, Dr. Michael Zins, Dr. Ingolf Voigt.

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