

Who makes SMEs ready for the digital future?

it's owl

We are moving forward. Are you going to join us?

How will digital transformation change SMEs? How can we utilise new technologies to improve products, production methods and working conditions? How can we tap into new business potential?

In OstWestfalenLippe, we develop solutions to these challenges together. To this end, 200 businesses, research institutes and organisations have teamed up in the technology network it's OWL. Named as one of the Leading-Edge Clusters by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, it's OWL is considered to be one of the largest Industrie 4.0 initiatives for SMEs.

From 2012 to 2017, we developed specific solutions in 47 projects that businesses were able to use to improve the reliability, resource efficiency and user-friendliness of their machines and systems. Small and medium-sized businesses have also benefitted from this, mainly via an innovative transfer concept.

Collaboration between industry and science is a model for success to ensure the competitiveness of manufacturing businesses. To this end, we develop new technologies, services, business models and qualification offers for SMEs. The state of North Rhine-Westphalia is providing EUR 50 million in funding for projects, at least the same sum has been pledged by industry. We want to implement EUR 200 million worth of projects until 2022.

it's OWL is the leading network for the digital transformation of SMEs. Here, results from the Leading-Edge Cluster are converted into practical solutions. And it is here, you will find partners to share experience, new technologies and ways to train your specialists with.

Who supports you in digitalising your business model?

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Is your company on the brink of digitalisation and looking for an appropriate business model that is ready for the future? With over 200 cluster partners, we offer expertise in developing digital platforms. The Technology-Network: Intelligent Technical Systems OstWestfalenLippe.Germany: www.ts-owl.com

Strategy and projects

In order for companies to stay competitive, they need to improve the intelligence of their products and production processes as well as to unlock new customer access channels. Therefore, new **fields of technology** are being developed in the technology network, including intelligent systems, sociotechnical systems, digital infrastructures, safety and security, value networks and advanced Systems Engineering. Fundamental technologies, solutions models and software libraries are being developed in these fields and being made available to businesses in an innovation platform.

The basis for this are **innovation projects** implemented by businesses and research institutes, in which solutions are being developed, comprising topics such as artificial intelligence, big data, digital platforms and digital twins.

Another focus is **technology transfer for SMEs**. Together with a research institute, small and medium-sized companies are able to resolve specific challenges of digital transformation in transfer projects quickly and without any red tape. This also involves identifying **new business ideas** in the intelligent manufacturing sector and developing them into promising business concepts. Start-ups are being supported, and collaboration with businesses is being enhanced. The Technologiefonds OWL enables access to growth capital.

Furthermore, by involving employees, practical solutions are being developed for the **working world of the future** to optimise working conditions and to train employees. Topics in this regard are learning platforms, cognitive assistance systems, participatory technology design, as well as agile leadership and staff development.

Who makes OWL a beacon for digitalisation?

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Are you on the lookout for research excellence and strong market performance in your international project partners? Are you searching for an example of an ecosystem where technology transfer is daily business? The Technology-Network: Intelligent Technical Systems OstWestfalenLippe.Germany: www.its-owl.com

it's OWL – it's global



Not only regionally and nationally but also beyond, it's OWL has grown into a beacon for digitalisation. The reason is our strong cooperation culture: local companies – global leaders and hidden champions alike – have joined forces with research institutes and business-related organisations to create a unique ecosystem. Regionally successful, we are still constantly on the lookout for international partners. Here, our focus is on Canada, China, Finland, India, Japan, and the USA. We aim to establish a thriving network of compatible, complementary players.

Every year, the technology network attracts a great number of delegations from all over the world. This is an excellent platform to exchange ideas on current topics, trends and solutions for the digitalisation of products and production systems. At the same time, our guests get the opportunity to visit our cluster partners and experience the fruitful symbiosis of industry and research in OWL.

it's OWL is a sought-after partner in European and international projects. Here, the cluster provides as well as receives valuable know-how in technology and facilitates the transfer of project results to a wider community.

We are well aware that it is through such international partnerships only that we will be able to meet the challenges of the digital transformation and its implications on a global scale.

We are moving forward. Are you going to join us?

Who recognises the implications of digitalisation for your workplace?

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How is digitalisation changing your working world? What new jobs and fields of activity are emerging? As Leading-Edge Cluster with over 200 companies and research institutes we provide the answers. The Technology-Network: Intelligent Technical Systems OstWestfalenLippe.Germany: www.its-owl.com

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COMPANIES



UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES



TRANSFER PARTNERS



SPONSOR MEMBERS

More than 150 sponsor members – particularly SMEs – are utilising the Leading-Edge Cluster's range of services to network and get their businesses ready for digital transformation. Interested companies, research institutes and business-related organisations from OstWestfalenLippe are more than welcome to get involved with the Leading-Edge Cluster and join the association. For more information on our partner network go to

www.its-owl.de/partner

Who provides you with global leaders for your career?

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As a Leading-Edge Cluster with over 200 high-tech businesses and close links to research, we provide the ideal platform for future careers and technology-related jobs. The Technology-Network: Intelligent Technical Systems OstWestfalenLippe.Germany: www.its-owl.com

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Sponsored by

Ministry of Economic Affairs,
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The region



OstWestfalenLippe
Eine Region. Ein Wort.