

PRESS RELEASE

Presentation of AeroSpace.NRW as part of the STEPHANIE project

As part of a virtual final event of the Interreg Europe project “STEPHANIE - Space TEchnology with Photonics for market and societal challenges”, the AeroSpace.NRW network presented itself to the project partners today.

Düsseldorf, 23rd June 2021. The STEPHANIE project (Space TEchnology with Photonics for market and societal challenges) enables the exchange between different regions of Europe in order to better exploit the potential of photonics-based space travel together. During the virtual exchange, Network Manager, Dr.-Ing. Harald Cremer, presented the new AeroSpace.NRW network and its basic ideas. While Germany is generally known for its success in the aerospace industry, the focus is more on the north and south of the country. North Rhine-Westphalia in the west, on the other hand, is rather unknown, even though the location is of significant global importance. One of the main goals is to make the region's potential better known.

"We want to help the space industry in North Rhine-Westphalia achieve more growth and visibility," Dr. Cremer told the other participants. "True to the motto '*Do good and talk about it*', we want to link politics, companies and research institutions with one another and create a regional network in which synergies can be found and partnerships are formed. "

Dr. Cremer also briefly outlined the four pillars on which the network is based: Networking - Information - Projects & Infrastructure - Strategy. The aim is to make the network a single point of contact for companies, institutes and politics in order to decide together with all those involved what needs to be done to advance the development of the space industry in North Rhine-Westphalia in the future.

The productive exchange between the European regions as part of the STEPHANIE project in recent years has made the lack of visibility of the strengths of North Rhine-Westphalia clear. AeroSpace.NRW wants to change this in the coming years with a strong network and hopes to be able to become a role model for other regions.

About STEPHANIE

Space TEchnology with Photonics for market and societal challenges

Space technology and photonics are among the most important industrial competencies in Europe. The combination of both technologies opens up completely new possibilities to cope with a multitude of today's societal challenges, e.g. in the areas of health, climate protection and security. In order to better exploit the potential of photonics-based space travel, the existing public funding instruments must be optimised so that space technology projects are used more specifically for civil applications on earth. Investments in research and development of marketable products and services must address the major social problems and at the same time use the potential that space travel offers (e.g. by providing large amounts of data). The STEPHANIE project has been developing political

recommendations for action since 2017, which are based on regional needs and aim to further develop regional funding programs and value chains. For more information, please visit:
<https://www.interregeurope.eu/stephanie/>

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