

## AiF at a glance





**German Federation of Industrial Research Associations**  
*Arbeitsgemeinschaft industrieller Forschungsvereinigungen "Otto  
von Guericke" e.V. (AiF)*





## The AiF

- is **the leading research network** for the German "Mittelstand".
- stimulates and funds **research, transfers and innovation**.
- aims to **strengthen** the competitiveness of the **national economy of Germany** through innovation.



# Who we are



|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name</b>         | AiF German Federation of Industrial Research Associations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Legal form</b>   | Registered association, non-profit organisation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Founded</b>      | 1954                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Members</b>      | 100 industrial research associations of different industrial and technological sectors, representing about 50,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Staff</b>        | 210 employees                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>President</b>    | Dr Klaus Nassenstein                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>CEO</b>          | Prof Michael Bruno Klein                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Subsidiaries</b> | AiF Projekt GmbH (Berlin), AiF FTK GmbH (Cologne)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Activities</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Promotion of collective research for the benefit of entire industrial sectors (IGF)</li><li>– Project management of governmental Research &amp; Development (R&amp;D) programmes for individual SMEs, e.g. Central Innovation Programme (ZIM) - ZIM Cooperation Projects</li></ul> |



## Facts and figures



- About 14 billion euros of public funds have been disbursed through the AiF for R&D Projects since its foundation in 1954
- Approx. 247,000 R&D Projects were launched via the AiF since its foundation

## Collective Research





- Collective Research is research for broad groups of companies, especially SMEs
- Each project must clearly demonstrate the economic added value of research for companies in a given sector
- Collective Research projects are precompetitive and are proposed and managed exclusively by industrial associations
- Collective Research is organised by the AiF and her members and funded by the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action



- Collective Research projects are carried out by research institutes or universities selected according to their excellence
- The involvement of SMEs in every research project is ensured via project monitoring groups
- Both the industrial associations and the research institutes involved in a project are responsible for technology transfer and the diffusion of innovations






- **Prenormative or product standardisation**  
e.g. standard dimensions
- **(Sectoral) Technical "tools"**  
e.g. materials database
- **Environmental solutions**  
e.g. emissions, dangerous substances, safety at work
- **Generic industry demand**  
e.g. body scanning in clothing industry
- **Basic technologies**  
e.g. alternative materials (cost/benefit, functional qualities)
- **Process technologies**  
e.g. cost benefit analysis of alternative technical solutions



|                                       | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>2022</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Budget in m euros</b>              | 201.1       | 195.4       | 181.0       |
| <b>Number of projects</b>             | 1,876       | 1,876       | 1,765       |
| <b>New projects</b>                   | 562         | 454         | 465         |
| <b>Research institutes involved</b>   | 810         | 812         | 798         |
| <b>Companies involved</b>             | 24,495      | 24,472      | 23,332      |
| <b>Companies involved per project</b> | 13.1        | 13.0        | 13.2        |

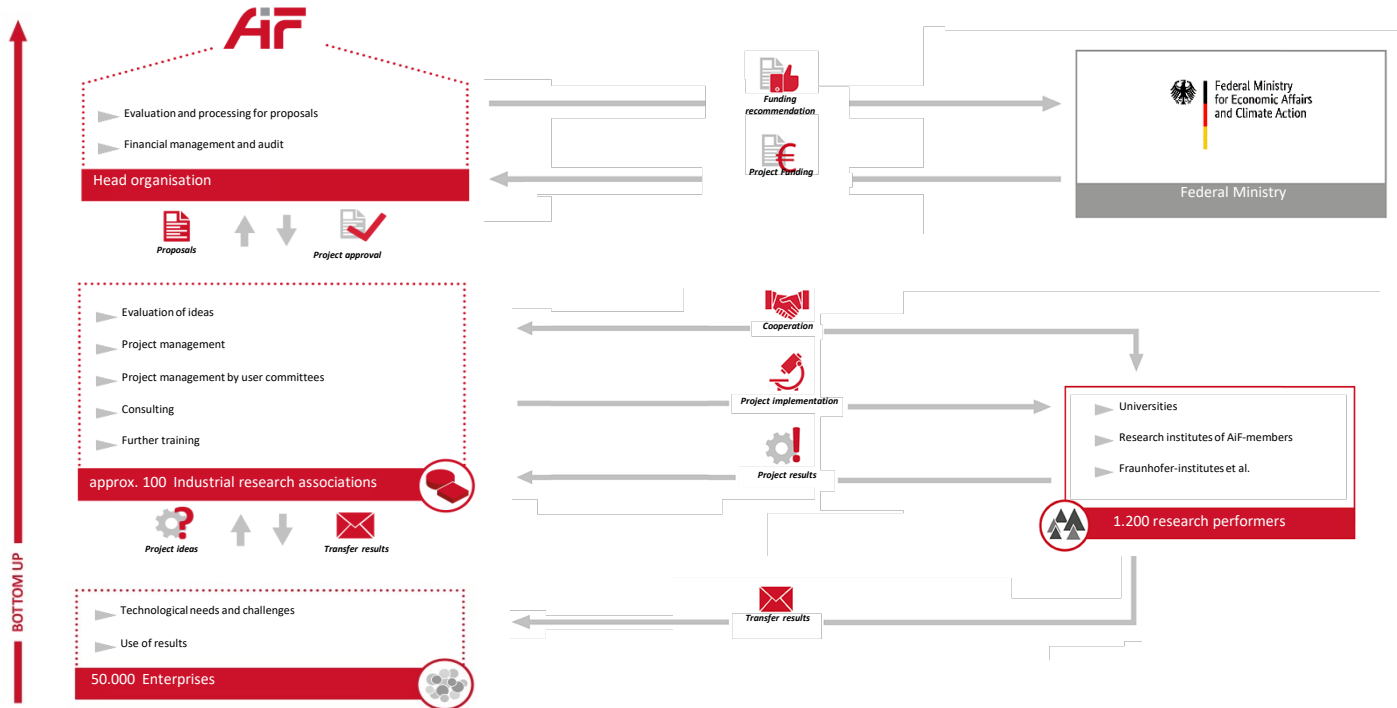
-  **cornet** Transnational Collective Research
- **PLUS**  
Projects of greater scale consisting of several individual parts that combine basic and applied research
- **Leading Technologies for SMEs**  
Projects of greater scale concerning future technologies and increasing the competitiveness of an entire business sector

Supported by:



on the basis of a decision  
by the German Bundestag

# iIGF: German Collective Research Scheme



- [AiF Brochure](#)
  - > Facts and figures at a glance
- [AiF Infomercial](#)
  - > The AiF explained in three minutes
- [Member profiles](#)
  - > Profiles of AiF member organisations

