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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>AiF German Federation of Industrial Research Associations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal form</td>
<td>Registered association, non-profit organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Founded</td>
<td>1954</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>101 industrial research associations of different industrial and technological sectors, representing about 50,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>210 employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dr Klaus Nassenstein</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Prof Michael Bruno Klein</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsidiaries</td>
<td>AiF Projekt GmbH (Berlin), AiF FTK GmbH (Cologne)</td>
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| Activities            | - Promotion of collective research for the benefit of entire industrial sectors (IGF)  
                        | - Project management of governmental Research & Development (R&D) programmes for individual SMEs, e.g. Central Innovation Programme (ZIM) - ZIM Cooperation Projects |
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.
Main fields of research & development

- **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
## Key figures

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

■ 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
German Collective Research Scheme

- Enterprises: 50,000
- Enterprises
- Technological needs and challenges
- Use of results
- Evaluation and processing for proposals
- Financial management and audit
- Proposal approval
- Evaluation of ideas
- Project management
- Project management by user committees
- Consulting
- Further training
- 101 Industrial research associations
- Project ideas
- Project implementation
- Project results
- Transfer results
- Universities
- Research institutes of AiF-members
- Fraunhofer-institutes et al.
- 1.200 research performers
- Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action
- Funding recommendation
- Project funding
- Cooperation
Further information on www.aif.de/en

- **AiF Brochure**
  - Facts and figures at a glance

- **AiF Infomercial**
  - The AiF explained in three minutes

- **Member profiles**
  - Profiles of AiF member organisations