

Welcome to Aalen University of Applied Sciences





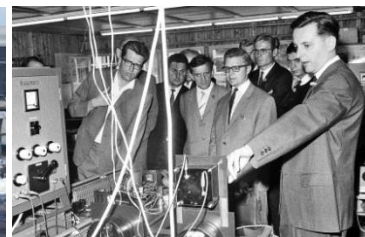
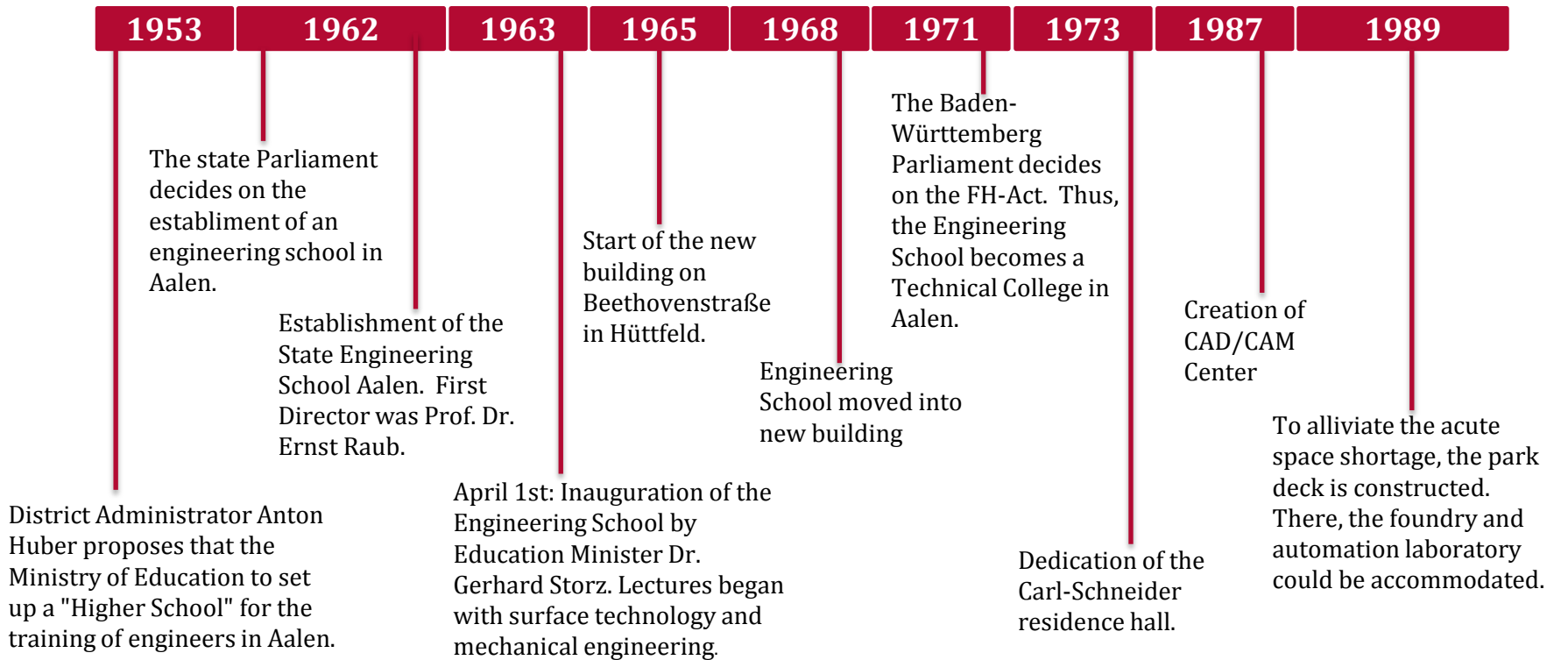
Aalen University celebrates its 50st Anniversary

- For years, Aalen University has been one of the leading research universities of applied sciences in Baden-Württemberg.
- An increasing number of students (from 32 in 1963 to currently 5.000), a successful know now transfer with industry businesses and an ever-growing campus shows the enormous development of Aalen University and its importance in the region and beyond.
- With nearly 100 partner universities worldwide, this not only makes the global network clear, but also illustrates the about 500 students from abroad.
- One third of the students graduating at Aalen University spent at least 1 semester for studies and/or industrial placements abroad.
- Strong research, vision, innovative education models, close interaction with the industry and regional as well as international networks shows that Aalen University is well established and working on a solid foundation. This success is based on a strong history:
- As early as 1953, District Administrator, Dr. Anton Huber (the street to the Burren campus is named after him) suggested before the Ministry of Education to set up a “higher school” for the training of engineers in Aalen.
- In 1956, the Parliament member, Dr. Rudolf Vogel sang the same tune and asked the Minister of Education, Dr. William Simpfendörfer to build an engineering school in Aalen.
- In 1957, the state government decided to make Ulm the first seat of an engineering school.
- It took until February 8th, 1962, another five years, for the parliament to decide on the establishment of an engineering school in Aalen, which was founded on October 1st, 1962 as the “National Engineering School Aalen”. The first director was Prof. Dr. Ernst Raub.
- Eventually in 1963, things really got started: in January, the engineering department for metal finishing and materials science in Schwäbisch Gmünd, which was established in 1957, became affiliated with Aalen’s engineering school. On April 1st, 1963, the then Minister of Education, Dr. Gerhard Storz, officially inaugurated the school of engineering.
- The lectures began in the interim building (“barracks”) in Galgenberg and in Schwäbisch Gmünd. Mechanical engineering and surface & material technologies were the first departments. Since the founding, it was clear that the accommodation at the barracks was only a temporary solution. Therefore, the construction of the Behnisch building began at the Beethovenstraße on October 1st, 1965.

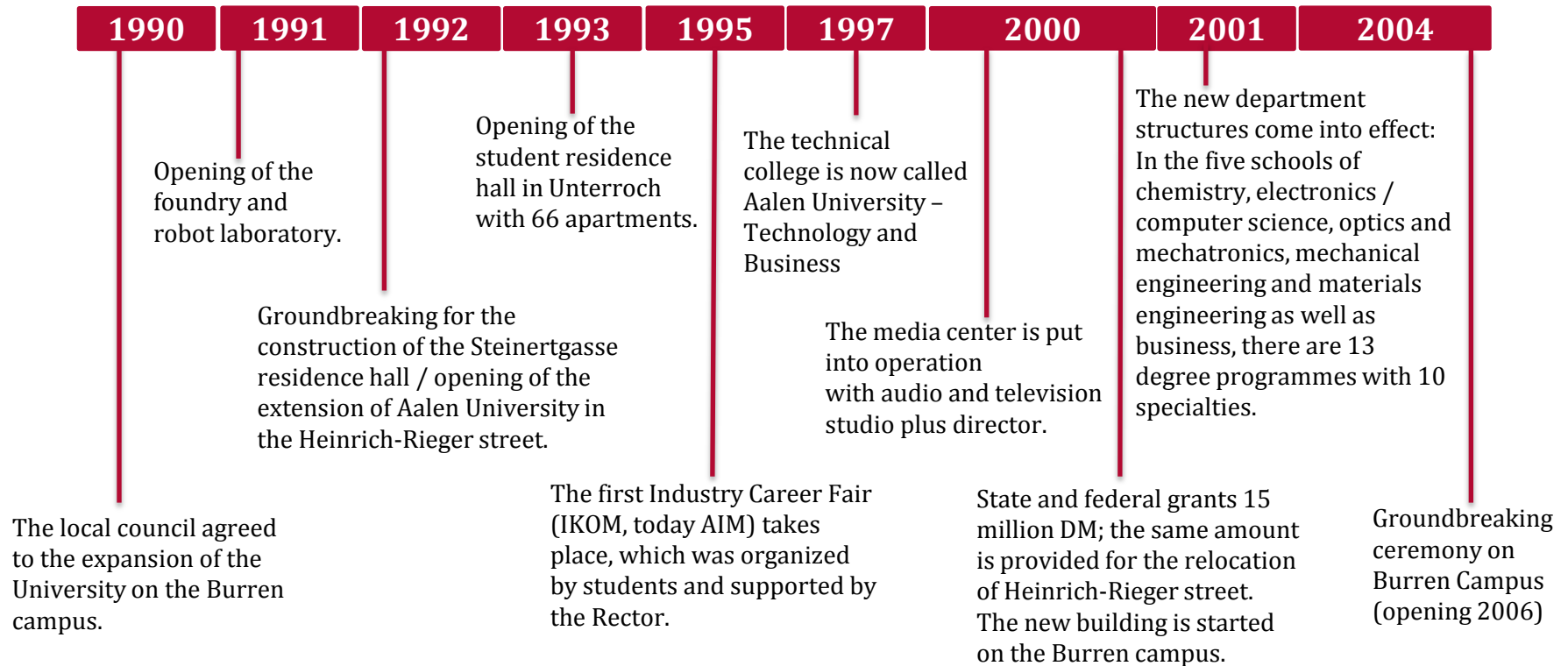
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- Two years later, on October 26th, 1967 the opening ceremony was celebrated. Shortly before Christmas in 1968, the engineering school moved from Galgenberg to the new building.
- Along with mechanical engineering and surface & materials technologies, lectures were also held for precision engineering (mechatronics), production engineering, electronics, and chemistry for the summer semester of 1969.
- Much went on in the following years: in 1971 the engineering school became a technical college and in 1997 to Aalen University – Technology and Business.
- Since 2010, the technical colleges in Baden-Württemberg have been renamed as “universities of applied sciences” in German but carried already this designation in English since 2005.
- In the mid 2000 years the University switched from the traditional German “Diplom” degrees system to the international recognized Bachelor / Master degrees system (Bologna Reform)
- More and more young people, now more than half of the age group in Germany, want study at a university of applied sciences.
- Through close work with regional businesses, curricula and models have been created which are aligned to the demands of the economy.
- The development of the past 50 years is not just evident in the number of students and number of study programmes. The University has gradually developed its campus in Beethovenstraße and Burren:
 - The new buildings for the faculties of electronics/computer science, optics, and mechatronics, along with the new library and student residence halls were opened in 2006.
 - The new cafeteria on the Burren campus followed in 2010, in 2011 the new Optometry / Audiology building was opened, and in 2014 the new Innovation Center will stand on the Burren campus and the new Auditorium / Lecture Hall at the Beethovenstraße.
- The University has always combined tradition and innovation. For 50 years, the University has been a reliable partner of talents and patents for its students, faculty, staff, city, region, industry, and associations in East Württemberg.

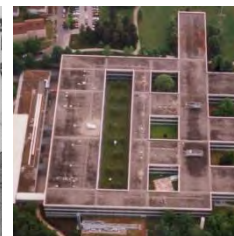
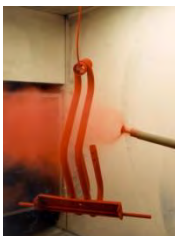
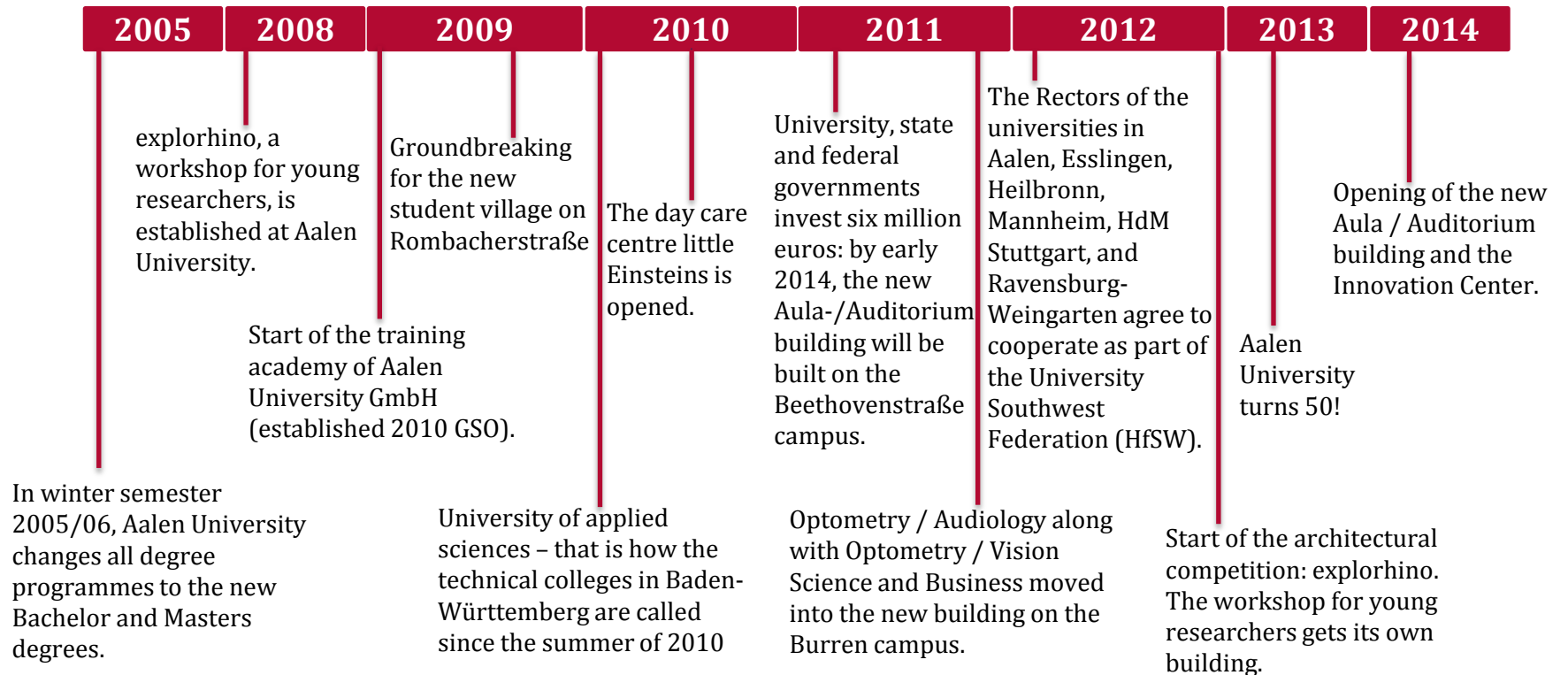
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The Decades of International Development

• The Revolutionary Sixties

- In the years after the university's founding in 1963, internationalisation was not yet a topic for the state engineering school in Aalen.
- When the nationwide student movement protests were at their height in 1968, the need for establishing international relations offices was noted in parallel with the Loccum Protocols for the organisation of international mobility at universities.

• The Wild Seventies

- After the engineering school converted to a university of applied sciences in 1971, the following years were primarily dedicated to the structural and professional development of the University.
- The first attempt of international movement was in November 1977. After a visit from Aalen students to the *Institut des Sciences de l'Ingenieur de Nancy* in France, 60 students from Nancy stayed in Aalen for a reciprocal visit and participated in a sports competition in Aalen. The partnership with Nancy continued for many years into the eighties.

The Decades of International Development

- **The Colourful Eighties**

- Through personal dedication from a number of professors who favoured internationalisation, the world of Aalen University of Applied Sciences became increasingly more colourful.
- Initially, France and Great Britain were countries of focus with the first formal partnerships in *Université de Strasbourg III* (1985, Chemistry) and *Teesside Polytechnic* in Middlesbrough (1988, Precision Engineering / Mechatronics).
- In addition, contacts with other European universities developed quickly through the foundation of networks, which also played an important role in the formation of the European-wide Erasmus Programme in 1987.

The Decades of International Development

● The Globalised Nineties

- In the increasingly globalised world, the internationalisation of Aalen University really accelerated.
- In 1993, the International Relations Office (IRO) was established and organised under the leadership of *Brigitte Minderlein* (1993-1997).
- The first non-European partnership was formed in 1992 and 1994 with two universities in Shenyang, China (Production Engineering).
- Other partnerships were formed with the *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaiso in Chile* (1998, Optometry and later also International Business) and the *New England College of Optometry in Boston, USA* (1999, Optometry) and still continue today.

The Decades of International Development

• The Globalised Nineties

- Since 1997, the University has also been involved with the Malaysia State Programme of Baden-Württemberg. Each year Malaysian scholarship recipients from the Malaysian Government come to Aalen to study engineering sciences and this programme is now more successful than ever.
- In 1997, changes in the Rectorate under *Rector Prof. Dr. Dr. Hering* brought new leadership to the IRO through *Pascal Cromm* and at this time, internationalisation became a part of the University's strategic agenda.
- The establishment of the Language Center of the University followed in 1999 and with that more intense and increasingly complex international activities.

The Decades of International Development

- **The Tireless Two Thousands**

- The European as well as the global network of the University was being expanded and with that, partnerships were being established in Canada (2000), Argentina (2001), the USA (2002 and 2008), South Africa (2002), Ethiopia (2004), Australia (2006), and Malaysia (2006 and 2007).
- Since 2008, the degree programme Industrial Management has been significantly involved in the *German-Jordanian University* (GJU) project.
- In 2000, the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) was introduced to universities nationwide for the calculation of course and examination achievements.
- In the same year, Aalen University was a founder of the European network *EUCLIDES*, which provides sponsorship for studies in engineering sciences.

The Decades of International Development

- **The Tireless Two Thousands**

- In 2001, the non-profit association, *International Society Aalen e.V. (ISA)* was founded for the support and integration of international activities of the University.
- The University's international profile also strengthened through its participation in the EU-Programmes in education and research areas (Socrates/Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Tempus, Alfa, frame research programmes...).
- In 2005, the Immigration Office in Aalen, closely cooperating with the Aalen University IRO, received the prize for the 'Friendliest Immigration Office in Germany' from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Association for German Science.
- In 2006/2007, the changes from the traditional German "Diplom" degrees to Bachelor / Master Degrees took place at Aalen University in the wake of the European-wide Bologna-Reform, which particularly ensured the international recognition of degrees as well as promoted international mobility.

The Decades of International Development

- **The Sustainable Twenty Tens and Beyond (1)**

- In relation to the University's partnerships, a paradigm shift in the form of fewer partnerships on a broader scale to so-called Outgoing and Incoming partnerships happened at the start of the twenty tens.
- The awareness of the necessity of study-related experience abroad is present everywhere. More than a third of the University graduates spent at least one semester abroad during the course of their studies. Now, the goal is for all students to have the opportunity to study abroad without prolonging their studies and with full transfer of credits.
- Aalen has never had so many international students study at the University (around 500 students from over 60 nations).
- Meanwhile, along with the full Masters programmes of Polymer Engineering and Photonics, there are some Masters programmes like Computer Control Systems and Advanced Materials and Management that are partially held in English.
- On the Bachelor level, thematically oriented semester programmes are offered in English so that foreign students are increasingly attracted to the University

The Decades of International Development

• The Sustainable Twenty Tens and Beyond (2)

- As a result of demographic changes in German society, by 2030 there will be a shortage of about 2.5 million academic professionals in the German labour market. This means that the percentage of foreign students at the University of Aalen will / should also significantly increase in the upcoming years.
- The theme of support and integration of international students will play an increasingly important role, especially cooperative support like the BMBF / DAAD funded project [MOST KIND](#) (2011 to 2013 as well as a follow-up project that has been applied for) by the four state East Württemberg universities in Aalen, Heidenheim, and Schwäbisch Gmünd.
- The number of partner universities has grown to nearly 100 and will only continue to grow in the future.
- Since 2012, Aalen University has been a member of the prestigious [European University Association](#) (EUA).

The Decades of International Development

• The Sustainable Twenty Tens and Beyond (3)

- The IRO, together with the Language Center, also established the International Center in 2012. There, a bundling of existing competences is available for strengthening the internationalisation process in the schools and degree programmes and for the internationalisation of the University as a whole.
- In terms of sustainable development, the International Center of Aalen University strives to be a competence center for the teaching of foreign languages and intercultural skills including the certification of recognized language tests like TOIEC, Test-DAF, TFI, etc, as well as provide support and integration activities at the university, in society, and in the working world for international students and students with migration backgrounds.
- Also, within the newly founded University Federation Southwest, member universities are aiming for common strategic measures in internationalisation so that an important contribution is provided to the international recognition of its members, including Aalen University.