

Preface

RWTH Aachen University is recognised as one of Germanys leading Universities of technology with a long tradition of close collaboration with national and international Industry on the one hand and globally relevant research and education organizations on the other. The national top position in third party revenues underlines the commitment and position of the University with respect to social impact.

Within the German high-tech initiative RWTH Aachen University has been granted the status of a University of excellence. In this context a strategy has been developed witch strives for the integration of not only technology and natural science but also to systematically include disciplines like economics, humanities and languages. Thus the University accepts the challenge of ultimately reaching the level of a fully integrated technical University.

In light of this RWTH Aachen University and Springer-Verlag Publishing have agreed on a publication series titled “RWTH Edition”. The series shall demonstrate the quality of individual researchers and results on a global platform. The present work covers a topic of special relevance for RWTH Aachen University: The process of organising innovation. The contend on the one hand generalizes systematically acquired knowledge up to the “Aachen Innovation Model (AIM)” and one the other hand documents real world application case studies.

As Vice-Rector of Aachen University and Pro-Rector for research I express my sincere gratitude to the authors for this top level analysis as well as to Springer Verlag for its commitment and ongoing cooperation. I wish the book the impact it deserves in the scientific community and in modern education of our students and graduates.

Sincerely

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. R. Poprawe M.A.

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