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IST Austria introduces Donor Club

IST Austria stages dinner to honor donors • So far research institute received donations worth 17 million Euro

Institute of Science and Technology (IST) Austria yesterday evening staged its first donors' appreciation dinner to introduce the IST Donor Club. Chairman of the Board of Trustees Claus J. Raidl, Chairman of the Executive Committee Haim Harari and IST President Thomas Henzinger gave a warm welcome to leading representatives of donor companies in the Raiffeisen Lecture Hall. The presentation by Architect Heinz Tesar, who designed the signature building of IST Austria, was followed by a talk by Biologist Carl-Philipp Heisenberg, who was one of the first professors to start at IST Austria in June 2009. Professor Heisenberg works in the field of Cell and Development Biology and uses zebra fish as model organisms for his research.

The subsequent dinner set the stage for honoring the donors and introducing the IST Donor Club. So far IST Austria received donations worth 17 million Euro, with the 10 million Euro donation by the Invicta Foundation being of an unparalleled magnitude in Austria and Europe. All donations are given for purely philanthropic reasons, i.e., accepting the donation does not put IST Austria under any obligation. By investing in the future of IST Austria, the donors show a strong commitment to supporting and developing excellent basic science in Austria at international level.

The dinner opened with IST Austria extending its special gratitude to Veit Sorger, who as President of the Federation of Austrian Industries was among the many contributors involved in making donations possible. Sorger's short talk on science and private funding was followed by the introduction of the IST Donor Club. Its core intentions are, first, to explain to the donors how the donations are invested and to give them first-hand information about the development of the research institute, and, second, to publically appreciate their support by displaying the names of the donor companies on specially crafted plaques in the buildings of IST Austria. The plaques will be designed according to

the four categories, ranging from the IST Austria Donor Club for donations of up to EUR 99.000 to the IST Austria PLATINUM CLUB for donations of more than EUR 10.000.000.

Claus J. Raidl, Haim Harari and Thomas Henzinger then seized the opportunity to distinguish the donors and present them with plates as symbols of their gratefulness. They announced all members of the four IST Donor Clubs and welcomed major representatives of the donor companies including Nobert Zimmermann of Berndorf AG, Raimund Ratzi of Miba AG, Franz J. Hiesinger of Mondi, Walter Böhme of OMV, Walter Rothensteiner of Raiffeisen Zentralbank, Herbert Stepic of Raiffeisen Bank International, and Claus Raidl of voestalpine AG. A group photo of all donors concluded the official part of the donors' appreciation dinner.

More information

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