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## **Ground breaking ceremony on I.S.T. Austria Campus**

### ***Molterer, Pröll, Raidl and Harari launch construction work***

Immediately before beginning with demolition and construction work on December 4 Vice-Chancellor Willi Molterer, Governor Erwin Pröll, Claus Raidl und Haim Harari marked the start of the new development phase of the I.S.T. Austria campus with a press conference and a ground-breaking ceremony on November 28.

Claus Raidl, chairman of the Board of Trustees of I.S.T. Austria, explained the activities so far: rules and regulations for the successful operation of I.S.T. Austria had been established. Industry had set a remarkable example in supporting I.S.T. Austria and will not cease to assist the Institute financially in the future without expecting short-term profits. Raidl thanked the federal and the local governments for their support and referred to the unique nature of I.S.T. Austria as an institute for excellent basic research.

Haim Harari, chairman of the executive committee of I.S.T. Austria, outlined the current status of the search for the first president and the scientists and gave some figures: So far 70 applications and nominations have been received, 500 applications/nominations for the positions of full professor and young independent researcher and an additional 100 names that have been collected by the scientific search teams . Harari mentioned how impressed he was by the commitment of politics and industry for a basic research institute that could not admit any interference into its organisation, strategy and operation.

Vice-Chancellor and finance minister Willi Molterer defined I.S.T. Austria as a cornerstone of the strategy developing Austria into an research- and knowledge-based economy and society. The federal government identifies itself with the strategy of an independent organisation of excellent research institutes. The federal budget will support I.S.T. Austria over the next ten years with 300 Mio. Euro, an amount necessary for accomplishing the ambitious goal.

Governor Erwin Pröll analysed the development over the past two years. The decision for the location was sensible, Pröll stated. In a first step 16 of the existing 33 buildings on the site with its 18 hectares will be torn down. In spring 2008 the lecture hall will be built.

The construction of the energy centre and the renovation of the central building will start then too and should be finalised by spring 2009.

Improvements of traffic connections and of public transport are being planned. The green belt and the park-like landscape design would improve the neighbourhood . In total the local government invests 130 Mio. € in the development of the campus. Pröll: „With the help of I.S.T. Austria the state of Lower Austria not only wants to catch up with the most successful economic regions but wants also to become an international trendsetter.“