



## Press Release

### **Ten years of research excellence from Villach for the world of electronics**

VILLACH, 4 October 2016 – In our everyday lives we need everything to run smoothly. This is something we rely on, and we never stop to wonder whether our car indicator or phone are working without any problems. Microelectronics is a major key to this, although we don't consciously notice it. But what does matter is how reliable, long-lasting and robust products are, because we notice this straight away. The "Kompetenzzentrum für Automobil- und Industrielektronik" (KAI), a subsidiary of Infineon Austria, has been conducting research into the reliability of electronic components for ten years, and thus makes a substantial contribution in preparation for the development of power semiconductors. Today the company celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Villach Technology Park, where it is based. The celebrations were attended by Gaby Schaunig, Deputy Governor of Carinthia, Petra Oberrauner, the Deputy Mayor of Villach, Sabine Herlitschka and Oliver Heinrich, members of the Board of Infineon Austria, Peter Schiefer, who is responsible for the entire automotive area within the Infineon Group, and numerous representatives of universities of applied sciences and other universities.

Josef Fugger, CEO of KAI: "We research topics that derive directly from the industry's requirements. With the increasing numbers, miniaturisation and system integration of semiconductors, reliability has become very important." In the last ten years KAI has accumulated extensive expertise, which enables the competence centre to support major areas of Infineon's business, such as automotive, power and industrial electronics.

#### **KAI goes Europe**

From Villach, KAI works closely with an international network of 19 research partners, including TU Wien, Graz University of Technology, Montanuniversität Leoben, Max-Planck-Institut für Eisenforschung in Düsseldorf, Fraunhofer IMWS and the universities of Parma and Milan. It is a partner in several EU research projects looking into future microelectronics topics. Via these networks KAI has an excellent knowledge resource at its disposal. Sabine Herlitschka, CEO of Infineon Austria: "As the interface between science and industry, KAI embodies the successful application of cross-discipline research. The systematic support we receive on complex research issues means that we can launch products and system solu-

tions faster. This is a huge advantage in terms of reliability and security for users.” KAI is currently intensively researching new materials for the semiconductor industry, such as gallium nitride and silicon carbide.

### **Access to the “best brains”**

The competence centre is well networked with both industry and universities, which makes it an attractive location for PhD students. It has 30 completed doctoral theses to its name over the last ten years, and 26 more doctoral students are currently being supervised at KAI and in the university environment. Sabine Herlitschka: “Excellent, engaged employees offer a company inestimable potential. In this way we have access to people who want to get enthusiastically involved with our core competences.”

### **About KAI**

KAI was founded in 2006 with funding from the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and the Carinthian Economic Promotion Fund (KWF), in cooperation with industrial and university partners. Since October 2013 the competence centre has been a 100% owned subsidiary of Infineon Technologies Austria. The company is based at the Villach Technology Park and currently has 43 employees. The centre covers a broad spectrum of areas of expertise: the reliability and robustness of power devices, materials analyses, testing methods, technology and product development, and simulation processes.

Further information can be found at [www.k-ai.at](http://www.k-ai.at)

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