

Stay connected:
Become part of our
AlumniNET.



AlumniNET

2024 Year in Review

This is our first alumni newsletter – Top highlights of 2024 – enjoy reading!

*Dear alumni and friends of our institute,
We are delighted to see how connected you remain with us and warmly invite you
to reflect on the highlights of 2024 together with us.*

We wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful start to the year 2025.

**** We look forward to welcoming you to the alumni reunion in Tübingen this coming summer. ****

Contact: alumni@is.mpg.de.



January

Florian Hartmann started his Max Planck research group Biomimetic Materials and Machines at the Stuttgart institute site. Before joining MPI-IS, Florian was a postdoctoral researcher at the Soft Transducers Laboratory at EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland, where he conducted research on small-scale swimming robots.

We submitted our second Gender Equality Plan (GEP) which outlines objectives and measures for 2024, 2025, and 2026. The plan aims to further enhance gender equality, raise awareness of unconscious biases, and foster a culture of mutual respect and inclusion at MPI-IS. Our GEP was rated Gold, which gives us even more motivation to implement its measures.

The Gender Equality Plan 2024-2026
of the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems
is awarded

GOLD

To meet the gender equality goals, the Max Planck Society has defined comprehensive standards that ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of its gender equality strategy. The results and facts that implement the standards through gender equality plans. The Commission Quality Management of Max Planck Gender Equality Plans, chaired by the Central Gender Equality Officer, regularly reviews the gender equality plans, changes the standards and designs the monitoring process.



February



Our redesigned library on the Stuttgart campus reopened, featuring meeting and communication areas, lush greenery and open spaces.

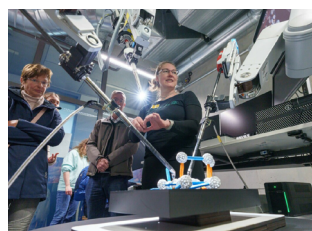
March

The new signage system, coupled with an abundance of greenery, has significantly enhanced the appearance of the Stuttgart site. Due to construction, the Minerva has been moved to the Lobby.



April

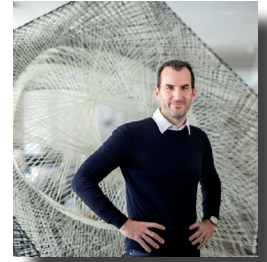
A lively Open House event at the Stuttgart institute site attracted more than 3,000 visitors.



June



The first ELLIS Institute worldwide was officially opened in Tübingen during the Cyber Valley Days. This institute is set to become a globally recognized center for groundbreaking basic research in artificial intelligence. It forms part of the broader ELLIS initiative, which strives to establish a pan-European institution dedicated to advancing machine learning research.



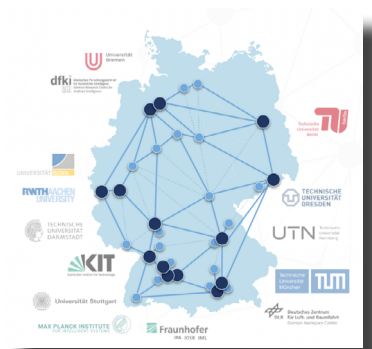
July

A new Max Planck Fellow joined MPI-IS Stuttgart: Professor Achim Menges from the University of Stuttgart. As a leading architect, he is the driving force behind and spokesperson for the university's cluster of excellence, Integrative Computational Design and Construction for Architecture (IntCDC). His Max Planck Fellow research group will run for five years.



We celebrated our annual Summer Colloquium & Summer Party with an alumni meeting in Stuttgart. In 2025, the big MPI-IS Summer Event will take place in Tübingen. Stay tuned – **we would love to welcome you there!**

MPI-IS joins forces to establish the Robotics Institute Germany (RIG), which will be a central component of the German government's new national robotics strategy. Our institute is a key partner in the consortium, which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).



August

Federal Labor Minister Hubertus Heil, MdB, visited the agricultural robot Polybot in the large robotics laboratory at the Tübingen institute site.

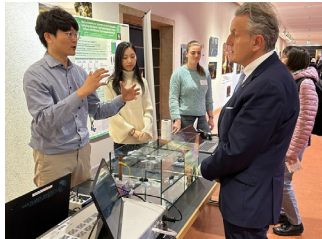
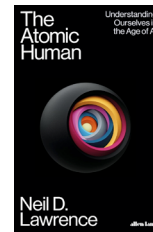


September

Large photovoltaic systems are being installed on the roofs of the institutes in both Stuttgart and Tübingen, marking an important step toward greater sustainability.

October

Our 2024 Max Planck Lecture was held by Professor Neil D. Lawrence, who spoke on the topic "The Atomic Human – Understanding Ourselves in the Age of AI", introducing his philosophical and inspiring book of the same title.



The Ecowalker and Jellyfish robot took center stage! Young researchers from our Stuttgart institute site presented their research projects at the Stuttgart Science Festival to Dr. Frank Nopper, Mayor of Stuttgart, and Judith Rakers, the moderator.



November

Dr. Buse Aktaş joined MPI-IS Stuttgart as a new Max Planck research group leader and launched her group, RoCoCo – Robotic Composites and Compositions. Prior to joining MPI-IS, she worked at the Multi-Scale Robotics Lab at ETH Zurich, where she focused on the development of magnetically tunable composites.

Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier visited the final of the BWKI (Federal Artificial Intelligence Competition), one of our initiatives in Tübingen, and was very impressed by the students' ideas.

