3. National IT Summit in Darmstadt 2008
>>For Angela Merkel (CDU) the visit to Darmstadt was a pleasant occasion. (...) One of the gratifying results of the summit for the region was the fact that Chancellor Merkel mentioned the South-Hessian IT-Cluster for business software in her speech and called Darmstadt an „excellent choice“ for the National IT-Summit.<<

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung 21.11.2008

Links
Software-Cluster
www.software-cluster.org

Netzwerk IT4work
www.it4work.de

House of IT
www.house-of-it.eu

Technische Universität Darmstadt
Department of Computer Science
www.informatik.tu-darmstadt.de

University of Applied Sciences (h_da)
Department of Computer Science
www.fbi.h-da.de

CASED
www.cased.de

Fraunhofer IGD
www.igd.fraunhofer.de

Fraunhofer SIT
www.sit.fraunhofer.de

Special thanks for the images: Fraunhofer IGD
**IT cluster**

**Strong advantages of the location**

**Strengths of the IT cluster**
Darmstadt is an important place for IT in Europe. There are several large and various small and medium-sized companies as well as IT research facilities, while Darmstadt also offers various opportunities to study as well as specific training facilities. The network »it4work« stand for the vivid exchange within the IT-sector in the region. Furthermore the »House of IT«, which aims at the development of the IT sector within the whole Frankfurt RheinMain area, and the national leading-edge software-cluster are located in Darmstadt.

**Structure of the sector**
The IT sector is characterised by a large number of SMEs, specialised on niche markets, as well as large multinational companies, which are big employers and major representatives for Darmstadt. The mixture between start-ups and well established companies leads to a stable and dynamic structure, combining entrepreneurial spirit with long-term experience.

There are more than 600 IT companies located in Darmstadt, with main focus on telecommunication and business-software development, specialised on the regional market requirements (i.e. software specialised on certain business needs, software for banks and other financial institutions, control software for mechatronics). The field of IT security is remarkable as well.

**Satisfaction with the location**
Darmstadt’s IT companies are more than average satisfied with the location. In 2004 the Hessian Ministry of Economics, Transportation, Urban and Regional Development published the results of an analysis with Darmstadt ranked No. 3 among 15 cities/administrative districts in Hesse.

**Large companies (extract)**
- AGT Germany GmbH
- Axentiv AG
- CA Deutschland GmbH
- Deutsche Telekom AG - Products & Innovation
- HEAG MediaNet GmbH
- Profi Engineering Systems AG
- Prostep AG
- Software AG
- T-Systems GmbH
- TuneUp Software GmbH
- VEGA Space GmbH

**Number of employees**
Due to the high percentage of freelancers, it generally appears difficult to collect meaningful data. However experts estimate that more than 10,000 people work in the closer sector in Darmstadt.

**Research facilities and universities**
According to a report published by the IHK in 2002, more than 350 academics do R&D in academic institutions. Among those are two Fraunhofer institutes and CASED (Center for advanced Security Research Darmstadt). Emphasis is laid on e.g. graphical applications, co-operative learning, IT security, publication systems, mobile telecommunication, while important research facilities like the GSI Helmholtz Centre for Heavy-Ion Research, the European Space Operation Centre (ESOC), as well as the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMESAT) use specific tailor made software products based on extensive R&D efforts. There are about 6,000 students in IT-related subjects, which benefit from this scientific environment and accordingly represent an important pool of young highly qualified specialists.

Global players like SAP and Intel maintain university-related R&D-centres.

**Internationality and networks**
The city of Darmstadt is located in the centre of Europe, providing an excellent basis for any activities abroad backed up by an extensive competence network. Our research facilities are internationally well regarded and multinational companies attract IT-experts from all over the world.