



MOBILITY

AS A RESPONSIBILITY OF SOCIETY

By Michael Glos, Federal Minister of Economics and Technology



It all began at a time when the stars still lay far beyond our reach. A hundred years ago, the “Modellversuchsanstalt für Motorluftschiffe” (Institute for the testing of aerodynamic models of powered airships) was founded in Göttingen, Germany. This marked the birth of aerospace research in Germany. It was this testing institute that was to become the germ cell for the German Aerospace Center (DLR).

Today, DLR has grown far beyond its original core aerospace mission and now includes the research fields of energy and transport. In these areas, DLR plays an important bridging role between basic research and applied industry research.

In future, networks between companies, universities and research institutes will become increasingly important. It is there that the technologies will be developed with which we will conquer the markets of the



future. Our goal is therefore the strategic promotion of research and technology with which ideas can be translated more quickly into marketable products. To achieve this, we need the right balance between basic research and application-focused research.

This notably applies to the transport sector. Transport creates mobility – and without mobility our economy cannot prosper. Mobility is thus an essential factor which secures our jobs.

Above all, mobility must be affordable as well as being guaranteed everywhere and at all times. Transport for goods and people must be designed to be efficient and safe while at the time as environmentally friendly as possible.

Noise and emissions are damaging to both people and the environment, traffic accidents result in injuries and deaths and the rapidly increasing

level of road freight transport is associated with the threat of a significant increase in traffic jams. The result? A standstill with enormous consequences for our economy and society.

From this complex situation, the necessary research objectives are derived as well as clearly distributed tasks. The transport business segment of DLR primarily concentrates on key research-relevant issues that are indispensable for system competence and an interdisciplinary approach. Focal issues lie in the areas of road and rail vehicles and transport management as well as transport development and the environment.

In its bridging role, DLR contributes its expertise towards many projects of the Federal Government's transport research program. In this way, it is ensured that knowledge from basic research can reach industrial applications.

Politics act as a catalyzer in this process and set the framework conditions, ensuring a fair balance of opportunities and expenditure. This is an issue that concerns both jobs as well as Germany making a decisive contribution towards overcoming the challenges of the transport sector through its competencies in technology.

At the European level, there is even more at stake. Due to its favorable geographical location, Germany has the potential to be developed into Europe's most cutting-edge logistics hub. However, this will not be possible without intelligent solutions for future transport systems.

I am therefore pleased that DLR is using its abilities to find innovative solutions to meet the challenges in the transport sector, thus ensuring that affordable mobility will remain feasible at all times and everywhere in the future.

Yours

Federal Minister of Economics and Technology