The German Aerospace Center

Das Deutsche Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt
“DLR is the ideal place for me to apply my professional skills in a team, and develop them even further.”

Caroline Forster
About DLR

DLR, the German Aerospace Center, is Germany’s national research centre for aeronautics and space. Its extensive research and development work in aeronautics, space, energy, transport and security is integrated into national and international cooperative ventures. In addition, DLR, on behalf of the German Federal Government, is responsible for planning and implementing Germany’s space programme. DLR is also the umbrella organisation for the nation’s largest project management agency.

DLR is involved in research regarding Earth and the Solar System. It provides expertise in the quest to protect the environment and develops environment-friendly technologies for energy supply, mobility, communication and security. Its portfolio ranges from basic research to the development of products for tomorrow.

DLR operates large research facilities for its own projects, and also acts as a service provider for customers and partners from business and industry. In addition, it promotes and encourages new scientific talent, provides advice to the German government and is a driving force in the regions where its facilities are located.
Working at DLR

DLR employs 8000 people; it has 33 institutes, test centres and operational facilities at 16 locations in Germany. The Executive Board is based in Cologne; DLR also has international offices in Brussels, Paris, Tokyo and Washington D.C.

In the financial year 2015, DLR had a budget of 888 million Euros, of which 51 percent were third party funds obtained competitively in the market. The German space budget administered by DLR amounted to 1357 million Euros, of which 66 percent represented Germany’s financial contribution to the European Space Agency (ESA), 20 percent went towards the German space programme and 14 percent towards space-related research conducted within DLR itself.

DLR’s great productivity is made possible by the exceptionally well trained and highly motivated women and men it employs, all of whom are able to engage in further training at DLR. Equal opportunity is a big area of focus at DLR. Flexible working hours, part-time work and specific promotional measures ensure that the demands of vocation and family remain mutually compatible.
"For me, DLR is an important player in the aerospace sector."

Holger Burkhardt
The German satellite duo TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X delivers radar data for a 3D elevation model of Earth’s entire land surface.

**Space administration**

DLR Space Administration is responsible for the planning and implementation of German space activities on behalf of the German Federal Government. This programme integrates all German space activities at the national and European levels, and includes the national space programme, DLR’s space research and development programme as well as German contributions to the European Space Agency, ESA, and to the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, EUMETSAT.

DLR’s main client is the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. However, DLR also works for other German government ministries in applied fields such as Earth observation, navigation and satellite communications.

The German space programme comprises satellite communications, navigation, Earth observation, space exploration, research under space conditions, the International Space Station and its utilisation, space transport, and technology for space systems.

[DLR.de/Space-Administration](http://DLR.de/Space-Administration)
Project management

The DLR Project Management Agency is an important element in the German government’s project funding mechanism, supporting research programmes and ensuring that the best projects are implemented in accordance with the legal framework. Areas such as health research, information technology, environment, education and workplace design, as well as projects involving European and international cooperation, have been supported by DLR Project Management. There is also project management for aeronautics research.

Technology marketing

DLR conducts innovative projects in cooperation with business partners – DLR Technology Marketing views this as its role. As a point of contact for companies, this body constitutes the interface between research and business – between product concept and innovation. In this process, companies are able to benefit from DLR’s skills and expertise. The work of DLR Technology Marketing includes evaluating concepts for new products and services, and projects to further develop these for the market. For the men and women who work at DLR, this is the place to go when considering company setups, patent applications and awarding of licensing rights.
Developing young talent

DLR fosters and develops talented young scientists from their initial research experiences in school laboratories to doctorate level qualifications and beyond under the title DLR_Campus. School laboratories are now present at most DLR locations. Here, over 100,000 children and young people have experienced a fascination for research by conducting their own experiments.

Every year DLR invites groups of talented young people to attend the DLR_Talent_School in their area on a full-time basis for one year. Students can complete internships and carry out work for their theses at various institutes. DLR holds competitions in which young people submit their ideas and are encouraged to participate – in collaboration with universities – in unique projects such as flight test campaigns or parabolic flights. The DLR_Graduate_Program, a high-quality qualification and research programme designed for postgraduate students, gives participants a good grounding in their chosen field and the skills needed for future career stages, such as managing a research group.

DLR.de/Education
“DLR is the ideal employer for me. Here, I have the flexibility to maintain my work-life balance.”

Antje Wörner
Space research

At DLR, the field of space research includes the development, use and operation of space infrastructure and technologies. This process makes significant contributions that benefit society, especially when the aim is to explore our environment, to identify and understand changes and interrelationships within it, and to develop new communication and navigation technologies. The aims of DLR space research also include learning more about our planetary neighbours in the Solar System, to increase our knowledge of Earth’s origin and evolution, and to drive space exploration forward. Space research also includes investigating the life sciences and materials under the specific environmental conditions of space, the development of robotic systems and the operation of control centres.

This sector of research includes Earth observation, communications and navigation, space exploration, microgravity research and life sciences, space transport and technologies for space systems.

DLR.de/Space
Aeronautics research

As well as conducting basic research, DLR is engaged in application-oriented aeronautics research. DLR's main objective is to strengthen the competitiveness of the German and European aircraft industry and aviation sector, as well as to meet the requirements established by politicians and society. DLR has set itself the challenge of making the fast-growing air transport sector efficient, environment-friendly and sustainable. The core research themes are: greater performance capabilities of the air transport system, improvement of the cost-effectiveness of development and operational work, reduction of noise and noxious emissions, and a better quality of air transport and flight safety.

By virtue of the capacity of its institutes, its involvement in wind tunnel operations and its fleet of research aircraft, DLR is able to approach the air transport system from a whole-system viewpoint. Research is divided into fixed-wing aircraft, rotary-wing aircraft, propulsion systems, air traffic management and in-flight experiments.

www.DLR.de/Aeronautics
Transport research

The transport sector ensures mobility, creates employment and constitutes a significant portion of the German economy. However, it does have some negative implications for people and the environment. DLR aims to devise solutions for traffic problems to ensure the mobility of people and goods, protect the environment and natural resources, and increase transport safety standards without losing sight of the need for cost-effectiveness.

DLR makes important contributions through its research and development efforts into state-of-the-art transport technologies, concepts and strategies. The focus is on the next generation of cars, commercial vehicles and trains, which should be lighter, use less energy, produce less noise and have improved aerodynamics, safety and comfort. Innovative approaches to the management of road, rail and sea transport and airports are key to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of infrastructure. DLR views the multimodal transport system as a whole – from its origins, through its development and out to its impacts and effects.

DLR.de/Transport
Existing ways of providing energy have adverse impacts on our environment and atmosphere. In addition, low-cost fossil fuels are going to become increasingly scarce in the foreseeable future. Great pressure for action is building up for the energy business and for energy research. New and innovative technical solutions are in demand. There are three paramount objectives here: the drastic reduction of energy requirements through greater efficiency, an increase in energy conversion efficiencies, particularly with regard to electricity generation, and the swift replacement of fossil fuels through the widespread introduction of renewable energy sources.

In particular, the energy researchers at DLR are working on innovative power station concepts, such as highly efficient gas turbines and solar thermal power plants, wind farms and fuel cells.

Key interdisciplinary topics include energy storage systems, materials research and systems analysis of the energy industry.

DLR.de/Energy
Large research facilities and aircraft fleet

DLR operates many large-scale research facilities, including rocket test stands, wind tunnels, engine and combustion chamber test stands, a solar furnace, plasma spraying equipment, a rolling road for vehicle testing and driving simulators as well as test benches for materials testing and laser research. DLR has access to Europe’s largest test centre for concentrating solar technologies – the Plataforma Solar in Almería, Spain – and operates the solar tower in Jülich.

With its own fleet of 13 aircraft and helicopters, DLR is the largest civilian operator of research aircraft in Europe, giving it the capability to tackle almost any mission, whether for DLR institutes or external customers. These threads are drawn together at DLR’s sites in Oberpfaffenhofen and Braunschweig. Oberpfaffenhofen uses its aircraft as platforms for the measuring equipment it employs to conduct research into the atmosphere, climate, environment and transport. Braunschweig deals primarily with developments on aircraft and helicopters.

DLR.de/research-aircraft
“As my employer, DLR supports me and gives me enough freedom to develop my own ideas and make personal contributions. An important foundation behind the expertise at this research facility is the experience of its employees. For me, DLR stands for continuity and long-term objectives, while still always managing to come up with some exciting surprises.”

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