The research initiative “Power Plants of the 21st Century” is a joint initiative of the federal states of Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg with 50% involvement on the part of industry partners. It started on 1 January 2009 in the second 4-year phase.

“KW21” (Power-Plant 21) is making an essential contribution to efforts to see that power plants will become more efficient, more reasonably priced, more flexible in their application and better in their reduction of emissions. There exists worldwide a huge necessity for improvements in the utilisation of fossil energy with immense potential for reductions in carbon-dioxide emissions. Many of the pre-existing power plants in Germany have been operating for a long time and have to be replaced, or at least brought up to state-of-the-art standards in the near future. For example, an increase in the degree of efficiency of only one 600 MW power plant by 1% would assure that approximately 12,000 additional households could be provided with electricity.

The second phase of KW21 started against the background of a paradigm-change within the energy industry. The fluctuating supply-levels of renewable energies demand more and more storage facilities, gas power plants or manageable use. Liberalisation of the market as well has created demand for the latest methods for portfolio development and load forecasting for future consumption. Various options such as the pilot-controlled re-charging of electric vehicles are being examined and assessed in reference to energy production in power plants.

**Spokespersons:**
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Prof. Dr. Thomas Sattelmayer (Technical University of Munich)

**Sponsors:**
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**Project volume:**
12.2 Mio. euros (grants and private contributions) for four years.

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Gas turbine, Siemens AG (Source: Siemens AG)
23 research groups and 11 industry partners are working on 50 projects in the following workgroups:

- Energy economy (E)
- Power-plant systems and steam producers (DE)
- Fluid dynamics and steam turbines (DT)
- Turbo machines for gas turbines (GT)
- Combustion chambers for gas turbines (GV)

Economic Applications:
The results from the research involving component-level working projects are integrated into improvement of the industrial partners’ development tools, as well as into new products in the context of industrial development projects. At a system level, KW21 provides insights into the improved operation of complex power plants.

Analyses of the economics of energy indicate in which direction the technology for power-plant complexes have to develop in order to be able to efficiently make electricity available in the future, in the required quantities, and with minimal repercussions for the environment.

Scientific Cooperations:
German Aerospace Center (DLR) – Institute of Combustion Technology
Research Institute for Energy Economy
Technical University of Munich:
  - Department of Energy Technology
  - Institute for Energy Economy and Application Technology
  - Institute of Fluid Mechanics
  - Institute of Flight Propulsion
  - Institute of Thermodynamics
University of Bayreuth:
  - Chair of Metals and Alloys
  - Department of Ceramic Materials Engineering
University of Erlangen-Nuremberg:
  - Department of Technical Thermodynamics
  - Institute of Science and Technology of Metals (WTM)
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology:
  - Engler-Bunte-Institute
  - Institute of Thermal Turbo-machinery (ISt)
University of Stuttgart:
  - Institute for Energy Economy and Rational Application
  - Institute for Air Craft Propulsion Systems
  - Institute of Thermal Turbo-machinery and Machinery Laboratory
  - Institute of Aerospace Thermodynamics (ITLR)
  - Institute of Combustion and Power plant technology (IFK)
  - Materials Testing Institute (MPA)

Industrial Partners:
ALSTOM Power Systems GmbH
Clariant Produkte (Deutschland) GmbH
E.ON Energie AG
EnBW Kraftwerke AG
Esytéc Energie- & Systemtechnik GmbH
MAN Turbo AG
Martin GmbH für Umwelt- und Energietechnik
MTU Aero Engines GmbH
Siemens AG
UTP Schweißmaterial GmbH
Voith Hydro Holding GmbH & Co. KG

Member of the Association of Bavarian Research Cooperations