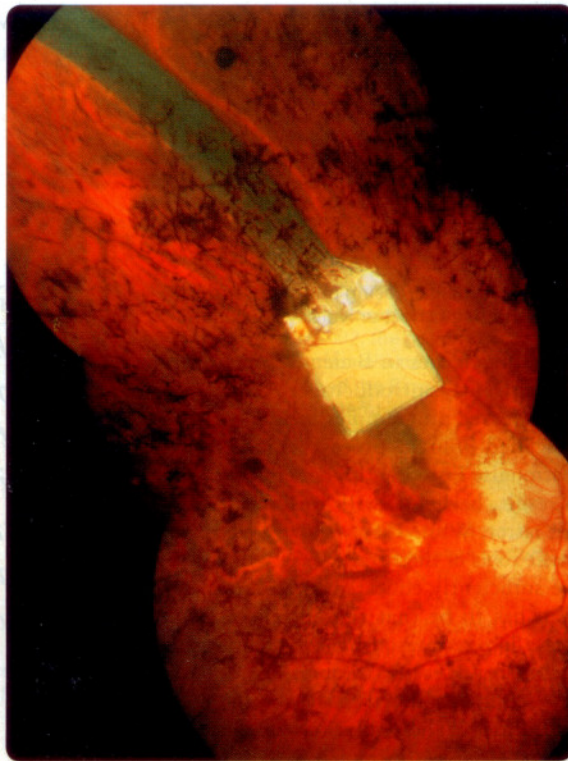


Promoting the Industry of Baden-Württemberg
Mikrosystemtechnik Baden-Württemberg e.V. has been founded in cooperation with the Baden-Württemberg ministry of economics in 2005. The organisation improves the premises for novel products, new target markets and assists the creation of knowledge-based jobs in German industry.



Retina Implant has developed an active subretinal chip that restores partial vision to people who are blind from Retinitis Pigmentosa and Macula Degeneration.

Retina Implant



Peter Josef Jeuk is Managing Director of the Association

MST BW e.V.

Motor for Innovations *Strategies of the Cluster MicroTEC Südwest improve the competitiveness of industries*

The integration of novel materials, advanced functions and intelligent systems in future products and the ability to produce by using economic instruments and reducing the timeline of the process of innovation: This is the challenge that Germany as Europe's leading industrial location has to meet for the near future. The microtechnology in the fields of information technology and systems engineering is probably the most important cross-sectional technology in Germany. It enables precise devel-

opments and gives technological answers which lead to competitive products and processes on the international market.

Microtechnology in Baden-Württemberg and the cluster MicroTEC Südwest proved to be as the decisioning motor of innovation in a row of industries such as microelectromechanical products in the automotive industry. The market leader Robert Bosch develops and manufactures in the Cluster MicroTEC Südwest in cooperation with second-tier sub-suppliers. Further participants of MicroTEC Südwest are companies like Daimler AG, FESTO AG, Endress+Hauser AG & Co. KG, and Carl Zeiss GmbH.

Pushing Intersectoral Transfers

The strategy of the cluster MicroTEC Südwest advances the current position of the microtechnology as key discipline for sectoral troubleshooting. An early validation of potentials of innovation and invention is

pursued as long-term complement to the 3-phase progress of innovation (invention, innovation, diffusion) within an industry. Moreover, an intersectoral pressure motivated by cluster-activities (drift complements diffusion) is expected to reach a high degree of application. This documents the claim of the cluster MicroTEC Südwest to realise improvements on all levels in the value-added chain and to secure company-owned know-how in complex international supplier markets, for example.

Holding or Strengthening the Market Position

The cluster forwards the deep linking of science and economy in forms of concerted schools in management and know-how as well as the implementation of collective lead projects. This helps to further upgrade the competitiveness of sectors which already use the interdisciplinary microtechnology (automotive industry, information and communication technology, medical and sensorial technics). But other industries which rarely used micro technical elements so far (industrial engineering, energetical technics, consumer), could profit from the creation of better conditions in the international competition, too. Furthermore, the Cluster MicroTEC Südwest assists small and medium-sized companies in Germany in the professional implementation of the sometimes complex world of microtechnology.

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