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Press Release

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English convenience translation. The original German version remains the official one.

Brauhausberg Campus on Schedule – Positive Interim Assessment from Task Force

Positive interim assessment: Preparations for the construction of a fourth campus for the University of Potsdam on the Brauhausberg and the expansion of the Hasso Plattner Institute at Griebnitzsee are proceeding according to plan. Minister-President Dr. Dietmar Woidke emphasized today in Potsdam: “We are working with great enthusiasm on our vision of a state-of-the-art science hub in Potsdam. To this end, we are rapidly putting all the necessary pieces of the puzzle together.” Founder Professor Hasso Plattner added: “European leadership in digital technologies, including artificial intelligence, requires excellent framework conditions. Brandenburg is creating these conditions with foresight and speed.”

Woidke and Plattner lead the Task Force established for this major project, which met today for its fourth session at the State Chancellery in Potsdam. Following the reorganization of the government, which saw the Brandenburg State Agency for Real Estate and Construction transferred from the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Finance, Finance Minister Daniel Keller attended the Task Force meeting for the first time.

On June 2, 2025, the State of Brandenburg, the University of Potsdam, and the Hasso Plattner Foundation signed a **Letter of Intent** regarding the construction of the new Brauhausberg Campus, as well as the expansion of the Hasso Plattner Institute and the jointly operated Digital Engineering Faculty at the Griebnitzsee Campus.

Exactly one year to the day after the signing of the Letter of Intent, on June 2, 2026, the **public participation process** for the draft **development plan** for Brauhausberg will begin. The results of the preferred urban planning option for the design of the new campus will be presented in mid-June alongside the ongoing public participation process.

Topics of the 4th meeting of the Task Force:

Contractual Structure

The ideas from the Letter of Intent have been reviewed and refined over the past few months with all parties involved regarding issues of foundation law, public procurement law, and tax law. Important contractual foundations for the major project are currently being clarified. To supplement the Letter of Intent, the Ministry of Finance and the Foundation are drafting a framework document that will serve as the basis for the contracts. The contracts—including those for the acquisition of land—are expected to be finalized before the end of this year.

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A key element in the decision-making process was a market exploration process. This was successfully completed last week, and the result is that there is no other donor. The state can now intensify the strategic development of Potsdam as a science hub in close collaboration with the Hasso Plattner Foundation.

Designing the Brauhausberg Campus

From the three urban planning options initially presented to the public, a preferred option was developed through a workshop process. This option brings together the various requirements for the campus—such as functionality, environmental aspects, the quality of open spaces, and the interplay between new and existing buildings. It will be presented to the public in June and is intended to serve as the basis for the future development plan, which the City of Potsdam is refining and plans to adopt in 2027.

At the same time, a space and land use program is being developed, along with a functional specifications document and a technical space inventory for the Brauhausberg Campus.

Amending the Higher Education Law

The amendment to the Brandenburg Higher Education Law is underway following an extensive participatory process. Among other things, starting January 1, 2027, appointment procedures for professorships at all state universities in Brandenburg will be accelerated, and selection procedures for students will be aligned more closely with individual qualifications. Additionally, the amendment aims to provide greater autonomy in the design of degree programs.

On March 31, the Brandenburg cabinet approved the draft “Act to Strengthen the International Competitiveness of Brandenburg’s Higher Education System,” (*Gesetz zur Stärkung der internationalen Wettbewerbsfähigkeit des Brandenburgischen Hochschulsystems*) presented by Minister of Science Dr. Manja Schüle. The amendment is currently being debated in the State parliament and is expected to be passed before summer recess.

Background:

With the expansion of the Hasso Plattner Institute and the jointly operated **Digital Engineering Faculty** with the University of Potsdam, Brandenburg aims to make a significant contribution to the digital sovereignty of Germany and Europe. The Digital Engineering Faculty will develop additional master’s programs, expand international partnerships, and strengthen research, particularly in the field of **artificial intelligence**.

To this end, the Hasso Plattner Foundation intends to utilize the spaces and buildings on the Griebnitzsee Campus previously used by the University of Potsdam. In return, the Foundation will provide an additional campus for the University of Potsdam on the Brauhausberg.

The new university campus on the Brauhausberg aims to set **international standards in research and teaching**. At the same time, the University of Potsdam’s existing sites in **Golm** and at the **Neues Palais** will be strengthened to create modern, future-oriented study conditions throughout the city.