

K2-Mobility

VIRTUAL VEHICLE

Kompetenzzentrum – Das virtuelle Fahrzeug Forschungs-GmbH

Programme: COMET – Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies

Programme line: K2-Centres

VIRTUAL VEHICLE gains millions for EU projects in Styria

Conducting leading edge research and acting as a hub between industry and science - this is the strategy VIRTUAL VEHICLE has managed all the way up into the champion's league of European research. Currently, VIRTUAL VEHICLE cooperates in 25 EU projects with a total of 200 partners coming from more than 20 countries. The research centre's success in EU projects bases on 'COMET' - the Austrian programme for competence centres.

Since the start of the K2 programme in 2008, VIRTUAL VEHICLE also increasingly contributes in Non-K research projects. Particularly EU projects are conducted and led by the centre's researchers. By doing so, VIRTUAL VEHICLE collaborates with a huge number of industrial and research partners from all over Europe. At the moment, there are 25 EU projects, in which the centre works together with 200 partners coming from more than 20 nations. In nine of these projects VIRTUAL VEHICLE is responsible for the total project coordination.

The many EU projects are funded by various programmes, such as FP7, ARTEMIS/ECSEL, RFCS and Marie Curie Actions. Furthermore, VIRTUAL VEHICLE remarkably positioned itself in the European funding program Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020: Great Success in the Green Vehicles Call

The European Union's funding program Horizon 2020 supports the development of technologies for mobility and provides funding of 6 billion euros by 2020. Together with the Graz University of Technology and other European partners,

VIRTUAL VEHICLE is working for the implementation of this program. Shortly after the kick-off of FACTS4WORKERS, VIRTUAL VEHICLE's first Horizon 2020 project, the centre received the "go" for another eight projects - a great success for VIRTUAL VEHICLE and the innovation region Styria.

Particularly in the call "Green Vehicles", the research centre achieved a great success: VIRTUAL VEHICLE is represented in five of the seven pan-European topics that were called for tenders. In two projects the centre is responsible for coordinating the project.

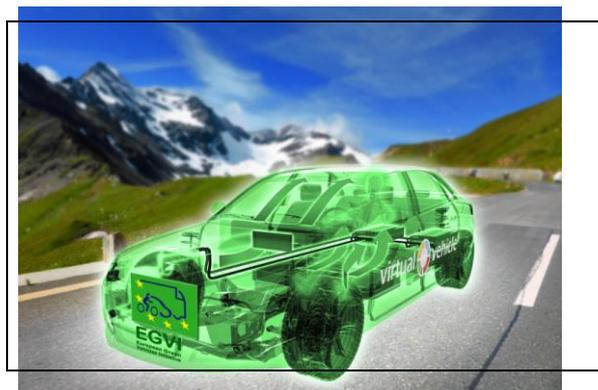


Fig. 1: By considering current social and ecological challenges, the funding programme “Green Vehicles” supports the development of eco-friendly vehicles and new solutions in terms of mobility. The programme focuses on topics, such as energy efficiency in vehicles, alternative powertrains and the usage of clean energy – all areas, in which VIRTUAL VEHICLE’s experts already have profound expertise.

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4.5 million euros for future topics at VIRTUAL VEHICLE

With the nine recently approved Horizon 2020 projects, the 200 Graz researchers gain more than 4.5 million euros.

Current topics are among others the energy efficiency of vehicles, alternative fuels and the requirements for the workplace of the future in so-called "Smart Factories".

Specific questions to be addressed are: How can optimal energy management increase the range of electric vehicles? How can the platform technology that allows a cheaper car production be applied to future urban vehicle concepts? Also increasing the life and safety of batteries is a research focus.

Impact and effects

By successfully conducting and coordinating EU projects, VIRTUAL VEHICLE increasingly positions itself in Non-K communities. In that way, the centre more and more works on interdisciplinary research questions and improves the international visibility of the company.

Based on data, published by the European Commission, VIRTUAL VEHICLE already counts to the top ten project partners in Europe in the area of Surface Transport.

Alois Stöger, Austria’s Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology, is happy about VIRTUAL VEHICLE’s position in European Research. In a recently published press release he reports about the outstanding success of Austria’s researchers in the area of industrial technologies and also highlights the role of VIRTUAL VEHICLE in EU projects: When tendering about green mobility, the Austrian Competence Center VIRTUAL VEHICLE even made it into five of seven of these million euro projects. Overall, 2.9% of all promotions from Horizon 2020 went to Austria, which are in total 191 million euros."



Fig. 2: VIRTUAL VEHICLE’s Project Leaders of the new “Green Vehicle”-EU projects

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Contact and information

K2-Zentrum K2-Mobility
VIRTUAL VEHICLE Kompetenzzentrum –
Das virtuelle Fahrzeug Forschungs-GmbH
Inffeldgasse 21a, 8010 Graz
T +43 (0) 316 873 9001
E office@v2c2.at, www.v2c2.at

Contact Person:

Dr. Aldo Ofenheimer

Further information on COMET – Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies: www.ffg.at/comet

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