

FRAUNHOFER »ENTERPRISE LAB«



BECOME SUCCESSFUL TOGETHER

The Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics IML supports companies in accelerating the development phase and putting research and innovative ideas into practice as quickly as possible. Within the context of "Enterprise Labs", companies can actively collaborate with scientists and implement innovations "Made in Germany" in direct cooperation. Through the symbiotic relationship of theory and practice, synergies are used and ideas are realized that are directly aligned to the customer's business processes. Companies do not only buy innovative concepts and technologies, but they work together with the scientists from topic identification to the market-ready business case.

Learning with and from each other

In the "Enterprise Lab", companies gain direct access to the scientists' know-how and can also actively participate in the identification of topics and objectives for future developments at an early stage. Therefore, they make significant contributions to the long-term development of tomorrow's logistics. "Enterprise Labs" aim at analyzing the entire spectrum of logistics and at creating new markets through innovations. For the companies, the close cooperation with the scientists of Fraunhofer IML guarantees a large increase in professional expertise and deep insights into current research. The direct involvement in development processes enables companies to participate directly in the design of the labs.

Creative minds under one umbrella

On the one hand, practitioners and scientists work on process innovations in an „Enterprise Lab“ that provide more efficiency and therefore direct benefits for companies by improving processes and providing new services. On the other hand, they develop innovations up to product maturity – being away from day-to-day business and in connection with basic logistics research. In the "Enterprise Lab", business requirements are combined with creative ideas and the development of new strategies and concepts. Designing logistics according to your own ideas is thus significantly simplified and accelerated. The "Enterprise Lab" overcomes the discrepancy between logistics research and new markets arising from innovations.

» The cooperation with the Fraunhofer IML gives us access to experts with comprehensive know-how in both developing technology and generating business cases. As the operator of the world's largest pallet pool, the institute is therefore the ideal partner for us on the road to the digital future. «

Robert Holliger,
President of the European Pallet Association e.V.



» This form of cooperation with Fraunhofer IML enables us to recognize technology trends at an early stage and to actively shape the development. We learn to better understand what customers in the logistics sector require. This awareness helps SICK to further develop its own product and solution competence. «

Gerhard Mutter, Chairman Corporate Solution Center
Logistics Automation der SICK AG.

Establishment and operation of labs

The labs are developed and operated within the Fraunhofer IML. The companies' employees and the institute's scientists form the team for the cooperation. Generally, the representatives of the companies are not on site all the time. Within subprojects, however, they are integrated into the thematic roadmap. On the one hand, this enables a broad dissemination of knowledge through the multiplier effect of the employees in the company and, on the other hand, it guarantees that the right experts are available for various questions in the subprojects. The number of employees from both the partner companies and Fraunhofer is equal.

A "Steering Committee" of the current "Enterprise Labs" develops and secures the strategic orientation and the objectives over the three-year term. The committee includes heads of departments of IML and managers from the industrial companies.

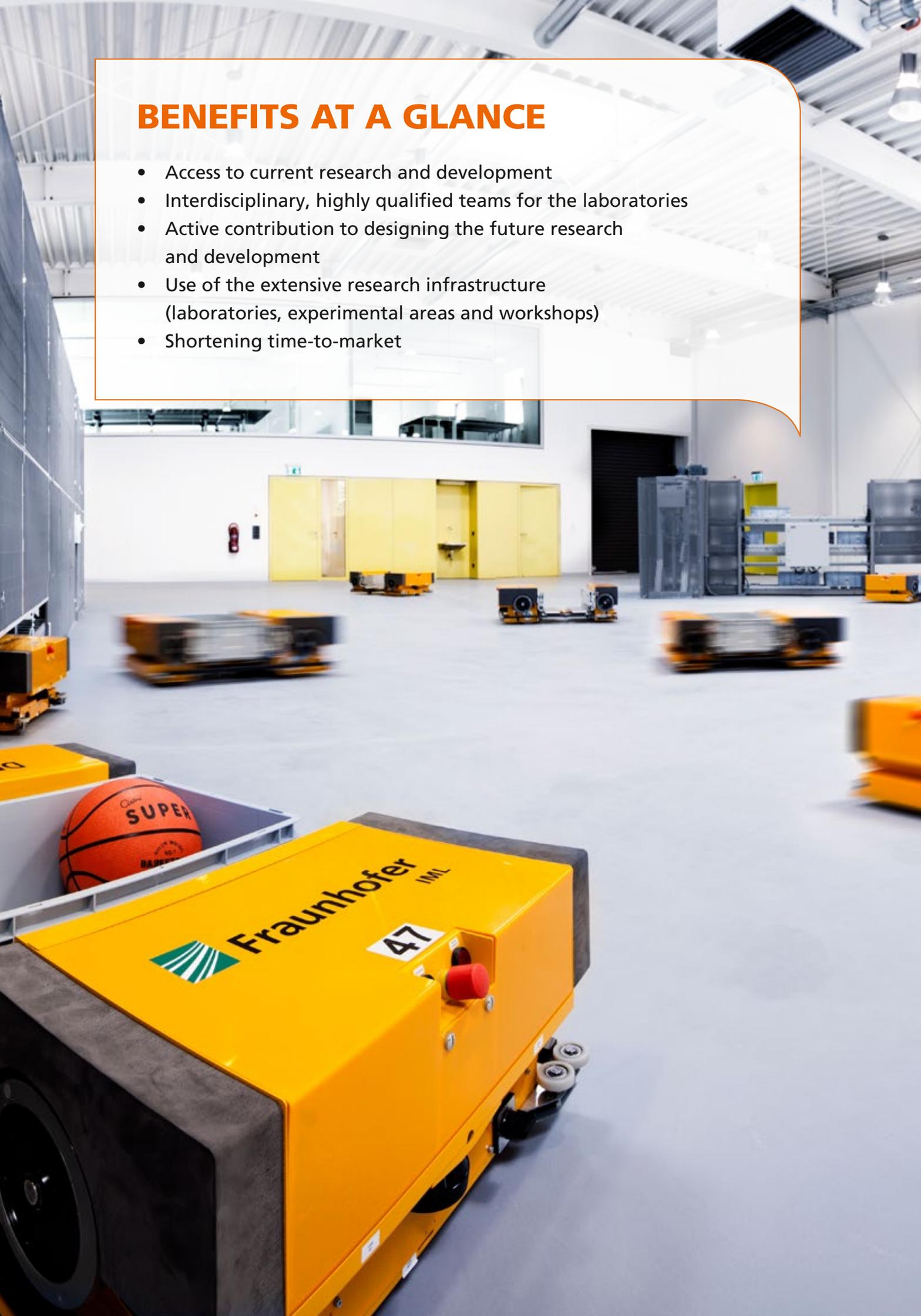
The "Enterprise Lab" also gives companies access to the LogistikCampus, an interdisciplinary research center for logistics in cooperation with TU Dortmund University and Fraunhofer IML. A path is made by walking on it. An "Enterprise Lab" creates the freedom to become creative, develop new ideas and open up new markets.

More information online:



BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

- Access to current research and development
- Interdisciplinary, highly qualified teams for the laboratories
- Active contribution to designing the future research and development
- Use of the extensive research infrastructure (laboratories, experimental areas and workshops)
- Shortening time-to-market





» The best way to predict the future is to shape it. «

According to Willy Brandt's (Germany's former Chancellor) motto, research and business work at one place and on answers to tomorrow's strategic questions - together they ensure that the logistics of the future bears your hallmarks.

ENTERPRISE LAB

The "Enterprise Lab" helps to bridge the gap between research and practice and to significantly shorten the path from the idea to market maturity through direct cooperation. Company representatives and researchers from Fraunhofer IML jointly analyze current and future logistics trends and evaluate possible scenarios in order to subsequently develop future-oriented corporate strategies and innovations. The "Enterprise Lab" is based on a contract concept that does not only keep the administrative effort for the partners as low as possible, but also allows them to adapt the research focus to the current results in a much more flexible way. This considerably increases the creativity of the joint work and generates productive synergies that motivate both sides to think outside the box and therefore open up new possibilities that would not have been possible otherwise. Subsequently, the partner companies can draw on well-founded results, which have a broad basis of detailed overviews and insights into the latest research results, goal-oriented market analyses and great technological competence.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Companies can use the research facilities of Fraunhofer IML as attractive test areas and presentation opportunities. Each of these facilities has a specific technological focus and is used for application-oriented testing of the latest developments. The existing facilities include the LivingLab Cellular Transport Systems (ZFT), the application center and the packaging laboratory. The "Enterprise Lab" offers powerful 3D printers and the possibility for SMD assembly of printed circuit boards. All this provides scientists and future industrial users with a realistic test environment to do research on technologies and future products in their "typical" environment and to develop them to market readiness. In addition to the increase in expertise, companies also benefit from excellent test and inspection environments in order to check the applicability of innovations. Especially, the support in the creation and testing of prototypes involving workshops and laboratories gives companies the possibility to accelerate the implementation and application of new technologies.

Fraunhofer-Institute for Material Flow and Logistics IML

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