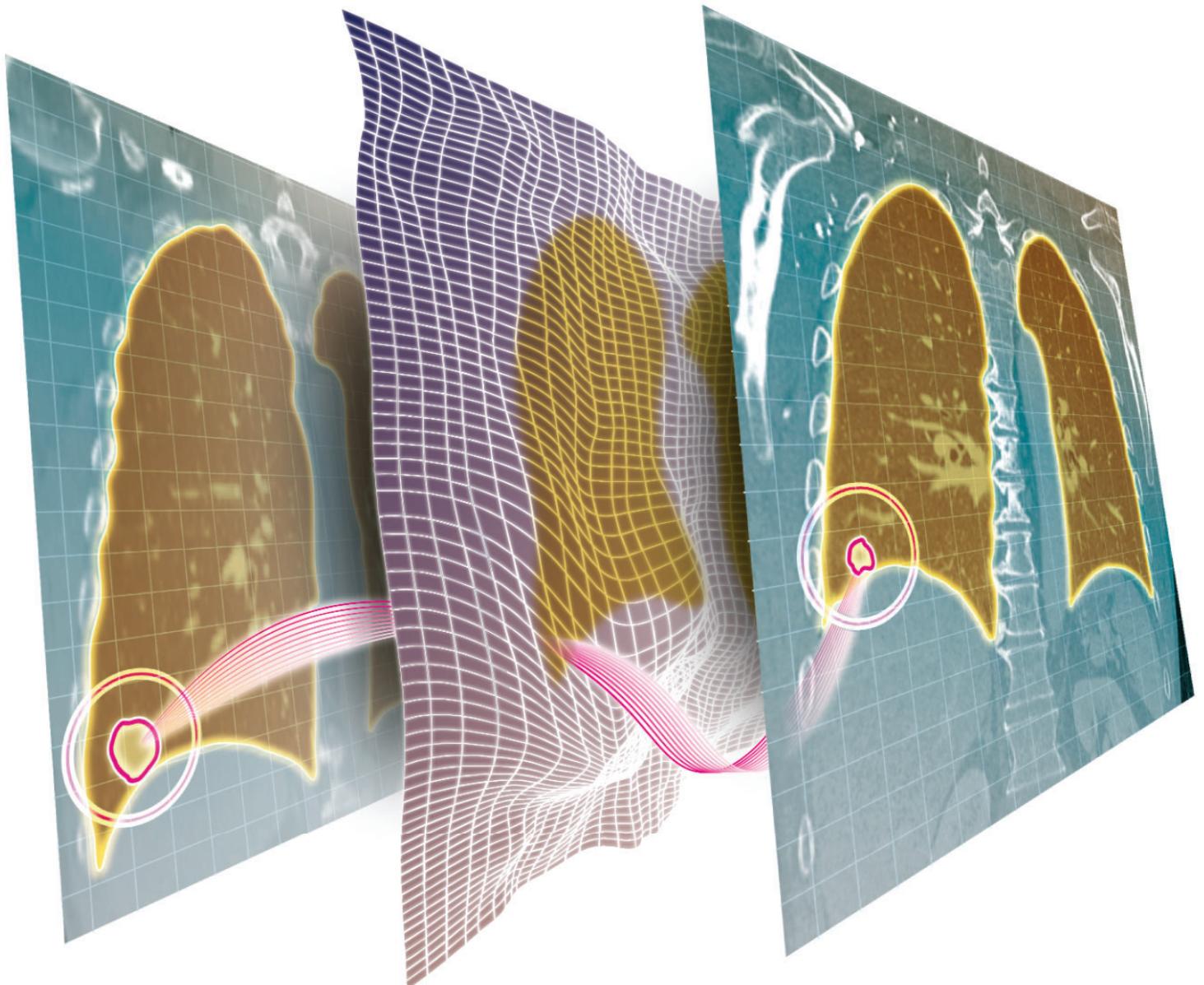




**Fraunhofer**  
**MEVIS**

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR DIGITAL MEDICINE



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2023/24**



**FRAUNHOFER MEVIS**  
**INSTITUTE FOR DIGITAL MEDICINE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24**

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*A deep learning approach allows CT images to be compared automatically in the context of cancer treatment — so that even small changes to lung tumors can be detected and located with greater speed and precision.*



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# FRAUNHOFER MEVIS AT A GLANCE

## BRIEF PROFILE

The Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Medicine MEVIS, in short Fraunhofer MEVIS, is dedicated to the development of software and IT solutions to overcome the rapidly growing complexity in healthcare. Fraunhofer MEVIS combines technological excellence with close clinical integration and acts as a bridge from research to product. Through longstanding collaborations and intensive networking with hospitals and clinical partners, Fraunhofer MEVIS has deep clinical expertise and direct access to realworld data, testing environments and enduser feedback — clear advantages over purely academic or purely industrial players. Building on more than 30 years of experience, Fraunhofer MEVIS delivers solutions with demonstrable clinical impact. A key differentiator is the proven ability to translate prototype approaches into regulatory compliant, quality assured, maintainable software — making them product-ready for industry partners. Combined with structured validation and transfer knowhow, this enables the delivery of tailored, clinically deployable products that sustainably accelerate the path from idea to clinical use.

### Strategic Considerations

The roots of Fraunhofer MEVIS lie in the creation, quantitative analysis, and interactive exploration of medical image data in their specific clinical context. We believe that medical imaging shall no longer be regarded as a field on its own. Instead, image features must be quantitatively correlated to available clinical information in order to discover new relevant knowledge. Fraunhofer MEVIS is uniquely positioned to achieve this by combining its deep understanding of clinical procedures and issues with mastery of the entire technology value chain — from imaging physics and data generation to algorithm and platform development to validation, product certification, and clinical implementation. We have built substantial expertise and a good reputation in the deep learning and artificial intelligence (AI) arena. This enables us to successfully cope with the rapidly growing complexity in all diagnostic and therapeutic domains. While many competitors worldwide are active in the field of medical AI, Fraunhofer MEVIS is one in a few that covers the

complete process of knowledge generation to eventually make AI a powerful clinical tool in hospitals and medical practices. Solutions based on our collaborative and modular software platforms are used likewise in multi-centric clinical trials and pharmaceutical research.

### Clinical Commitment

Research and development at Fraunhofer MEVIS is primarily guided by clinical needs instead of being technologically or methodologically driven. Our work focuses on developing innovative solutions for computer-assisted medical processes and their industrial implementation for clinical use. Identifying and analyzing clinical issues demands a deep understanding of medical research and calls for close cooperation with clinical partners. Fraunhofer MEVIS maintains an international network of more than 100 clinical partners — an essential source for understanding user needs and evaluating clinical value and feasibility of developed solutions.

### Industrial Collaboration

True innovation, i.e., the successful launch of solutions onto the market with tangible impact, is only possible through close collaboration with industrial partners that provide the necessary resources and market know-how to fuel the development of new technologies. Fraunhofer MEVIS functions as the link between clinicians and industry, aiming at technological advancement for clinical use. Transferring applied research to the industry is a pillar of the institute and a basis for its future research. Partners for cooperation and clients for industrial research and development include large firms and small- or medium-sized ventures in medical technology, pharmaceuticals, and related fields.

### Certification

Successful introduction of innovative approaches onto the market requires adherence to specific regulations, such as the Euro-

pean Conformity (CE), the European Medical Device Regulation (MDR), or the approval guidelines of the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Since 2005, Fraunhofer MEVIS has been part of a small group of medical technology research institutions worldwide that operate a quality management system according to the EN ISO 13485 (Medical Devices) standard with a special focus on implementing a software development process in compliance with IEC 62304. The establishment of the quality management system certified for the scope "design, development and production of software for medical products according to customer requirements" lays out well-defined steps for industrial cooperation and enables Fraunhofer MEVIS to provide market-ready solutions for commercial partners in the strongly regulated medical device market.

## Software Platforms and Solutions

Fraunhofer MEVIS has initiated and developed a family of versatile, modular web-based software platforms that enable our partners and ourselves to quickly build innovative solutions and to adapt to new challenges flexibly.

The **MeVisLab** development platform ([www.mevislab.de](http://www.mevislab.de)) by Fraunhofer MEVIS and MeVis Medical Solutions AG is a tool for rapid prototyping, flexible development of clinical software solutions, as well as developing products and methods for fields such as image analysis, visualization, and biophysical modeling. The joint use of *MeVisLab* at Fraunhofer MEVIS and partners in research, medicine, and industry promotes synergy, accelerates development and supports their tight technological integration.

Many of the software prototypes and solutions developed by Fraunhofer MEVIS are based on MeVisLab. Examples of ready-to-use software solutions for application in clinical workflows or in research and development include:

**OncoChange** is an AI-driven software that enables radiologists to perform CT-based tumor follow-up assessments in clinical practice more efficiently and reliably. *OncoChange* streamlines radiologists' workflows by automating lesion measurement and detecting relevant changes. By eliminating the time-consuming steps of re-localizing and measuring target

lesions in follow-up scans, *OncoChange* enables compliance with standards such as RECIST (Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors), all without increasing workload. It integrates seamlessly with existing image viewing and reporting software. *OncoChange* addresses the critical challenges posed by the radiologist shortage by significantly enhancing workflow efficiency.

**HistokatFusion** brings cutting-edge image registration technology into computational pathology, and integrates different sources of information. By seamlessly aligning multiple stained sections, *HistokatFusion* facilitates in-depth analysis, accelerates biomarker discovery, advances AI development, and supports the personalization of therapies.

**CuraMate** (formerly known as *SATORI*) is a cutting-edge toolkit designed for efficient annotation, segmentation, and image feature quantification. It provides highly customizable annotation forms, intuitive interactive contouring tools, and fully automated segmentation algorithms, allowing for a versatile approach to various annotation tasks. Once a reader study is properly set up and configured, *CuraMate* aims to guide collaborating users with different roles through their work effectively, while also ensuring that preventable errors are avoided. Finally, *CuraMate* integrates seamlessly with components for training and inference of Deep Learning models. A standout feature is the integrated training loop, enabling users to enhance neural networks continuously by iteratively adding new training data and correcting errors in previous algorithmic outputs.

**gammaSTAR** represents the next evolution in MRI pulse sequence development. It provides a universal format that is compatible with different MRI models, software versions and vendors. The software solution eliminates reliance on scanner-specific sequences, enables seamless integration and accelerates the transfer of MRI technology into clinical setting. The integration of *gammaSTAR* saves time and costs in clinical workflows by enhancing MRI compatibility and minimizing manual sequence adjustments and interaction. In large imaging studies, *gammaSTAR* helps maintain consistency across multiple devices.

## Links to Academic Institutions

In addition to the network of clinical partners, Fraunhofer MEVIS maintains a strong network of technological and academic partners. In addition to the associated professorships at local universities in the State of Bremen, joint professorships and strategic cooperations connect Fraunhofer MEVIS with universities at other sites. In 2023 and 2024, Fraunhofer MEVIS was linked to eight universities in Germany and the Netherlands via a total of twelve professorships:

- University of Bremen:  
Prof. Horst Hahn, Prof. Matthias Günther
- Constructor University Bremen:  
Prof. Tobias Preußer, Prof. Markus Wenzel
- Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences:  
Prof. Richard Rascher-Friesenhausen, Prof. Klaus Eickel
- University of Lübeck: Prof. Jan Modersitzki
- Charité / TU Berlin: Prof. Anja Hennemuth
- Hannover Medical School: Prof. Andrea Schenk
- RWTH Aachen: Prof. Fabian Kießling, Prof. Volkmar Schulz
- Radboud University Nijmegen: Prof. Bram van Ginneken

## Brief History

Fraunhofer MEVIS was founded in August 1995 as *MeVis — Center for Medical Diagnostic Systems and Visualization*, a non-profit limited liability company (gGmbH) at the University of Bremen, partially funded by the State of Bremen. Its founder Prof. Heinz-Otto Peitgen was appointed Executive Director. In 2006, the institute was renamed *MeVis Research GmbH, Center for Medical Image Computing*.

Since 1997, MeVis Research has spawned several legally and financially independent spin-offs, most of which merged in 2007 to form the publicly traded MeVis Medical Solutions AG. Between 1995 and 2008, the number of employees at MeVis Research rose steadily from 10 to 51 full-time positions.

On January 1, 2009, MeVis Research was incorporated into the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft as the *Fraunhofer Institute for Medical Image Computing MEVIS*. During a transition phase of

five years, the parent institute in Bremen (2009–2013) and the site in Lübeck (2010–2014) received funding from the States of Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein and were co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In October 2012, MEVIS founder Prof. Peitgen retired and handed over the management of the institute to his former deputy, Prof. Horst Hahn. From May 2014, the institute was jointly headed by Prof. Hahn and Prof. Ron Kikinis. Since March 2020, Prof. Hahn has been the sole managing director of the institute with two deputies.

## Recent Developments

In January 2019, the institute changed its name to *Fraunhofer Institute for Digital Medicine MEVIS* to underscore its mission of driving the transition to tomorrow's digital precision medicine through systematic computer support.

Due to its success, Fraunhofer MEVIS received funding for a new building from the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Bremen, and the European Commission. It moved in its "Workshop of Digital Medicine" in May 2021.

In August 2022, Fraunhofer MEVIS launched a high-performance cluster for computationally intensive AI applications. The "KI-Cluster Health", purchased with ERDF funding, is equipped with 42 Nvidia A100 graphics processor units.

In December 2022, the TechsoMed GmbH was founded in Bremen, based on a collaboration with the Israeli medical technology company TechsoMed Ltd. in the field of ultrasound-guided thermal ablation.

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*View of the Fraunhofer MEVIS institute building located on the campus of the University of Bremen. The "Workshop of Digital Medicine" accommodates up to 210 workplaces on a usable floor space of 2600 m<sup>2</sup>. The building was funded in equal parts by the Federal Republic of Germany, the Federal State of Bremen, and the European Commission (ERDF).*



## OPERATING AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

Fraunhofer MEVIS' collaborative orientation is reflected in the institute's operating principles and organizational structure. Researchers are not bound to strict, hierarchically organized working groups, but act in a flexible network.

Project teams are put together with team members from different technological and clinical disciplines. This form of dynamic collaboration promotes cooperation and fosters cross-training, beneficial to both, the individuals and the institute as a whole.

Internal communication is governed by transparency and cooperation. Access to information is only restricted insofar as required by confidentiality agreements with customers or by legal constraints — otherwise sharing of information is encouraged and expected at all levels and is actively aided by exchange forums such as the social Wiki-based intranet (Confluence), morning meetings for all institute members, and an active information policy by the leadership. Initiative beyond obvious work assignment is highly encouraged.

One guiding principle of Fraunhofer MEVIS is to value the diversity of all employees. Our diversity management aims to create a working environment in which all employees have fair opportunities for participation and development — irrespective of their ethnic origin, gender, religion and ideology, disability, age or sexual identity.

Three male and three female persons of trust are elected by the staff to function as liaisons and mediators when needed. In addition, two female equal opportunity officers are elected to promote and ensure balanced participation and diversity.

To improve management, organization, and staff development, Fraunhofer MEVIS established a mentoring system. A group of experienced staff members act as mentors or co-mentors to less experienced colleagues (mentees). Responsibilities of the mentors include the professional development of the mentee, the coordination between the goals of the institute and those of the mentee, as well as the identification and addressing of potential conflicts and problems.

Fraunhofer MEVIS introduced a structure of organizational entities (OEs) each with a responsible OE manager (OEV). The main objectives of the OE structure are:

- clear allocation of responsibilities,

- delegation of project budgets, and
- strengthening the strategic focus.

Allocated budgets must be explicitly used for appropriate strategic objectives. Objectives and budgets are coordinated by the OEVs in consultation with the institute directors and the financial management. OEVs are by default mentors for their respective OE members. Mentees can freely choose their OE as well as their co-mentor.

Overall responsibility for the institute is organized in a central leadership and administration structure. The heads of the institute are:

- Prof. Horst K. Hahn (Managing Institute Director)
- Prof. Matthias Günther (Deputy)
- Prof. Andrea Schenk (Deputy)
- Thomas Forstmann (Head of Administration)

They are assisted in operational and strategic decisions and tasks by

- the OEVs,
- four leadership committees for human resources (LH), finance (LF), quality management (LQ), and IT security (LS), and
- the Institute Management Committee (Institutsleitungs-ausschuss, ILA).

The ILA has an advisory function, prepares decision papers for the institute's management, and can also pass resolutions in consultation with the institute's management in their absence. The ILA consists of eight employees with equal voting rights plus a person of trust and an equal opportunity officer. It meets once a month and as needed.

Next to its internal structures, Fraunhofer MEVIS has an external independent Advisory Board which advises the institute's management on matters relating to scientific focus, strategic orientation, and clinical as well as industrial translation.

## ADVISORY BOARD

Fraunhofer MEVIS is supported by its Advisory Board (Kuratorium) which is composed of persons with diverse backgrounds relevant to the institute. It advises the management of Fraunhofer MEVIS in issues of scientific focus, strategic orientation, and clinical as well as industrial translation.

The 2023 and 2024 Advisory Board meetings, chaired by Prof. Hans Maier, were the first held in person after the coronavirus pandemic and took place in the new Fraunhofer MEVIS institute building. The representatives of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and the Fraunhofer MEVIS management provided an overview of current developments, followed by an in-depth discussion of structural and financial prospects. Beyond their usual role as advisors, the members of the Advisory Board have been actively involved in the strategy process of Fraunhofer MEVIS in several workshops and interviews.

In 2023, Dr. Muylkens retired and Prof Magheli was newly appointed to the Advisory Board. In 2024, Prof. Schill stepped down from the Advisory Board after ten years of membership. The representatives of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and the Fraunhofer MEVIS management thanked the retiring members for their great commitment and warmly welcomed the new appointee.

In 2023 and 2024, the Advisory Board consisted of the following persons:

### Chairs

*Prof. Hans Maier (since 2009)*

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) German Heart Center Berlin  
Vice Chairman Supervisory Board German Heart Center Charité  
Berlin

*Prof. Mathias Prokop (since 2014)*

Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen  
University Medical Center, Groningen  
The Netherlands

### Medicine

*Prof. Ahmed Magheli (since 2023)*

Vivantes Klinikum Am Urban  
Berlin

### Science

*Prof. Iris Pigeot (since 2022)*

Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology — BIPS  
Bremen

### Industry

*André Hartung (since 2022)*

Siemens Healthineers, Forchheim

*Stefan Widensohler (since 2019)*

Krauth Invest GmbH & Co. KG, Hamburg

### Universities

*Prof. Kerstin Schill (2014-2024)*

Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg, Delmenhorst  
University of Bremen

### Research Funding

*Dr. Michaela Muylkens (2022-2023)*

Bremen Senator of Science and Ports, Bremen

*Dr. Bernd Roß (since 2019)*

Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, Kiel



## Guests

*Prof. Gerhard Hindricks*

Clinic for Cardiology, Angiology and Intensive Care Medicine  
Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

*Prof. Ron Kikinis*

Former Institute Co-Director (2014-2020)  
Boston/USA

*Prof. Heinz-Otto Peitgen*

Founder and former Institute Director (1995-2012)  
Bremen

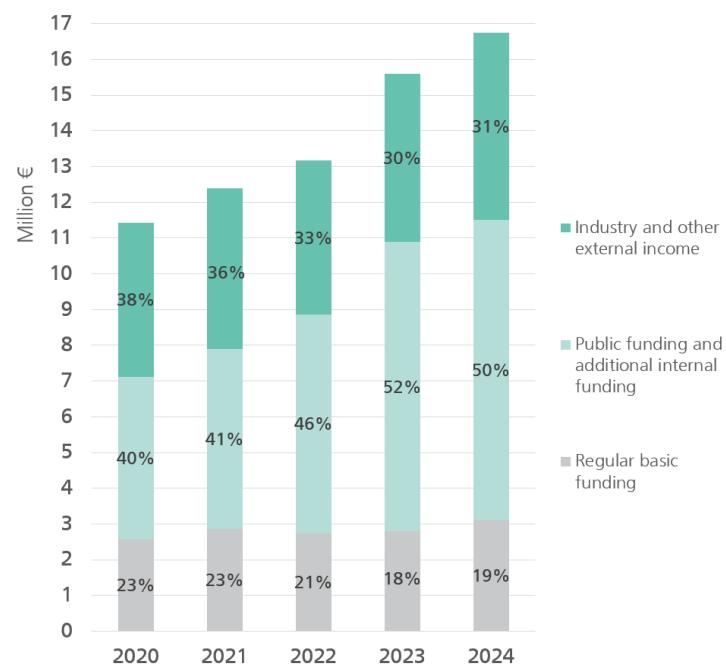
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*Participants of the 16th meeting of the Fraunhofer MEVIS  
Advisory Board on June 21, 2024 in Bremen.*

## THE INSTITUTE IN FIGURES

### Budget and Earning Trends

In 2024, Fraunhofer MEVIS increased its total earnings and industry earnings to record levels of nearly 17 million euros. The main contributors were publicly funded earnings, including internal Fraunhofer projects, with 8.4 million euros (50%), followed by industry earnings and other third-party funding with 4.2 million euros (31%). Our regular basic funding rose to 3.1 million euros (19%). Thanks to the successful results in the years 2018 to 2023, the institute's reserves remained stable.



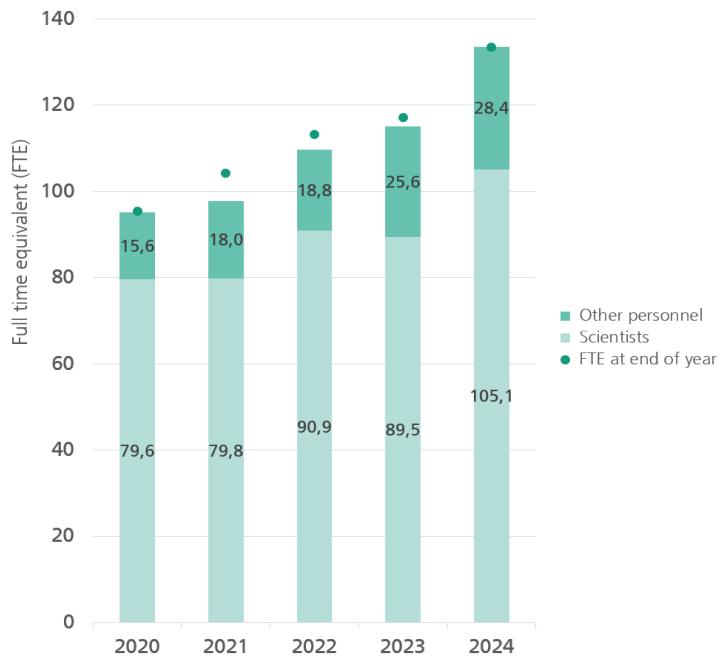
*Earnings in million euros in the period from 2020 to 2024.*

Operating Budget (OB), Investment Budget (IB) and Total Budget in thousand euros:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>OB:</b>	11,306	11,448	12,946	13,737	16,070
<b>IB:</b>	122	947	220	1,865	679
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11,428</b>	<b>12,395</b>	<b>13,166</b>	<b>15,602</b>	<b>16,749</b>

## Human Resources

The overall average number of persons employed by Fraunhofer MEVIS has increased significantly by 10 full-time equivalents (FTE) in 2024 (+8.6%). This is due to a high project workload and for strategic considerations integrating our Hamburg group into Fraunhofer MEVIS. The vast majority of these positions are for scientific personnel (+8 FTE). The high level of FTE at the end of 2024 (133.5 FTE or +14 FTE compared to 2023) reflects the dynamic growth over the last 3 years.



*Development of employment figures for scientists and other personnel shown as annual average FTE between 2020 and 2024. The dots indicate the staff FTE at the end of the year.*

Full-time equivalents as annual average (avg FTE) and at the end of the year (eoy FTE):

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>avg FTE:</b>	95.2	97.8	109.7	115.1	125.1
<b>eoy FTE:</b>	95.4	104.2	113.3	117.1	133.5

# THE FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, headquartered in Germany, is one of the world's leading organizations for applied research. Since its founding as a nonprofit organization in 1949, Fraunhofer has held a unique position in the German research and innovation ecosystem. With nearly 32,000 employees, the research organization operates 75 institutes and independent research units across Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft plays a major role in innovation by prioritizing research on cutting-edge technologies and the transfer of results to industry to strengthen Germany's industrial base and for the benefit of society as a whole.

Fraunhofer's primary customer base consists of large and medium-sized companies that utilize its expertise to boost their competitiveness with new technologies. For years, Fraunhofer has been one of the most active patent applicants in both Germany and Europe. Its extensive international patent portfolio is the basis for technology transfer through research projects, spin-offs and licensing. Moreover, Fraunhofer addresses societal goals in key technology sectors through interdisciplinary and international partnerships in specific markets. Examples include developments in microelectronics, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, healthcare, the circular economy, new materials, energy systems, critical infrastructure security and defense.

Fraunhofer is an attractive and established partner in publicly funded joint projects with industry partners. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is also instrumental in strengthening Germany's innovation and industrial base and ensuring its viability. Its activities create jobs in Germany, increase public-sector investments, give companies competitive edges and foster public acceptance of advanced technology. International partnerships with leading research partners and companies around the world ensure direct contact with the most influential research communities and economic areas.

Fraunhofer's annual business volume is €3.6 billion, €3.1 billion of which is generated by contract research — Fraunhofer's core business model. Unlike other public research organizations, base funding from the German federal and state governments is merely the foundation for the annual research budget. This

serves as the basis for groundbreaking precompetitive research that will become important for the private sector and society in the years ahead. Fraunhofer's distinctive feature is its large share of industry revenue, guaranteeing close collaboration with the private sector and industry and the consistent focus of Fraunhofer's research on the market. In 2024 alone, industry revenue accounted for €867 million of its total budget. Fraunhofer's research portfolio is augmented by competitively acquired public-sector funding, pursuing the right balance between public-sector and industry revenue.

Highly motivated employees are the most important factor behind Fraunhofer's success. The research organization therefore fosters an environment that encourages independent thinking, creativity and goal-driven work. It supports career development in both research and industry by providing targeted programs for professional and personal development.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is a recognized nonprofit organization named after Joseph von Fraunhofer (1787–1826), a Munich-based scholar who enjoyed equal success as a scientist, inventor and entrepreneur. His legacy continues to inspire the organization's spirit of innovation to this day.



*Locations of Fraunhofer institutes in Germany in 2024. Fraunhofer MEVIS has major sites in Bremen, Berlin, Hamburg, and Lübeck.*

# THE YEARS 2023/24

## CHRONICLE

### **January 12-13, 2023**

Recertification audit of the Fraunhofer MEVIS quality management system by DEKRA.

### **February 19-23, 2023**

Fraunhofer MEVIS presents AI and CAD support for diagnosis and therapy in digital medicine at the SPIE Medical Imaging conference in San Diego, California.

### **February 27, 2023**

Diversity Workshop for employees of Fraunhofer MEVIS in Bremen.

### **March 27, 2023**

Prof. Henrik Grönberg from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm is visiting Fraunhofer MEVIS.

### **April 3, 2023**

Prof. Andrea Schenk appointed deputy institute director of Fraunhofer MEVIS.

### **April 25-27, 2023**

Fraunhofer MEVIS presents innovative research for the lead market of digital healthcare at the DMEA 2023 trade fair in Berlin.

### **May 19, 2023**

Prof. Horst Hahn appointed honorary member of the German Radiological Society (DRG) at the German Radiology Congress (RÖKO) in Wiesbaden.

### **June 12, 2023**

15th annual meeting of the Fraunhofer MEVIS Advisory Board in Bremen.

### **June 17 - September 17, 2023**

Exhibition of EVOLVER by artists Marshmallow Laser Feast, key scientific partner Fraunhofer MEVIS, at MUSEUM WAVE in Seoul, Korea.

### **August 25, 2023**

Workshop on disability awareness for employees of Fraunhofer MEVIS in cooperation with Inklupreneur.

### **August 28, 2023**

Speculative Fiction workshop on future professions in digital medicine with Prof. Joachim Friedmann from the ifs International Film School Cologne and school students.

### **August 29, 2023**

Executive vice presidents Elisabeth Ewen and Dr. Sandra Krey at Fraunhofer MEVIS for the dialogue format 'Vorstand vor Ort'.

### **August 30, 2023**

Prof. Gerhard Hindricks from the German Heart Center and the Clinic for Cardiology (DHZC) at the Charité Berlin is visiting Fraunhofer MEVIS.

### **September 20, 2023**

Fraunhofer MEVIS hosts a reception for international scientists organized by the University of Bremen Research Alliance (UBRA).

### **October 19, 2023**

Premiere of Whose Scalpel 2.0, a development of the outcome of the STEAM Imaging I residency with artist Yen Tzu Chang, at INTER-ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS in Taipei, Taiwan.

### **November 14, 2023**

Start of International Fraunhofer Talent School Bremen: STEAM Imaging V – *Holding the 'Digital' in Medicine to Account* with medic and artist Fiona Smith.

### **November 25, 2023**

Fraunhofer MEVIS hosts gastrology clinicians at their congress 23. Bremer Gastro-Tag organized by Gesundheit Nord Bremen.

### **November 26-30, 2023**

Fraunhofer MEVIS presents its latest developments in AI-based digital medicine at RSNA 2023 in Chicago, USA.

**February 6-8, 2024**

Monitoring audit of the Fraunhofer MEVIS quality management system by DEKRA.

**March 6, 2024**

Fraunhofer MEVIS commissions a photovoltaic system installed on the roof of the institute building, which covers approximately 10 percent of its electricity needs.

**March 26, 2024**

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft celebrates its 75th anniversary.

**April 4, 2024**

Workshop *MRI Sequence Composition Beyond Academia* at the Institute for Design Informatics at the University of Edinburgh.

**April 5, 2024**

Exhibition of *The BOX Will See You Now*, outcome of *STEAM Imaging V*, at Edinburgh Science Festival, UK and in September at Ars Electronica's JKU MEDCampus in Linz, Austria.

**April 9-11, 2024**

Fraunhofer MEVIS presents innovative research for the lead market of digital healthcare at the fair DMEA 2024 in Berlin.

**April 11-12, 2024**

Institute-wide workshops to commonly develop a set of guiding principles (Leitziele) for Fraunhofer MEVIS.

**April 25, 2024**

Girls' Day activities at Fraunhofer MEVIS (annually since 2014).

**May 21, 2024**

Visit by Bremen's Senator for Health Claudia Bernhard and State Councilor Silke Stroth.

**June 21, 2024**

16th annual meeting of the Fraunhofer MEVIS Advisory Board in Bremen.

**June 28, 2024**

Fraunhofer MEVIS is participating in a new special exhibition entitled *AI, what's up?* at the Universum Bremen science museum.

**August 8, 2024**

Kick-off event at Fraunhofer MEVIS for the trial run of the *Digital Medicine* specialization at the Oberschule am Waller Ring.

**August 21, 2024**

STEAM workshop: *Expansion & imagination of the human body* with alumni artist Yen Tzu Chang and school students.

**August 26-29, 2024**

Multi-day workshop on medical imaging for the *Informatica Feminale* at the University of Bremen (annually since 2013).

**September 11, 2024**

Fraunhofer MEVIS Bremen Big Data Challenge Pupils Track: *Clinical Decision Support for Physicians*, initiated by the Stiftung Bremer Wertpapierbörse (BWB).

**September 25, 2024**

Inaugural visit by Bremen's Senator for Science Kathrin Moosdorf, State Councilor Irene Strebl, and Head of the Department for Science Planning and Research Funding Dr. Lars Henning.

**October 21, 2024**

Roundtable discussion on early detection of prostate cancer with experts from various medical disciplines, policy makers, and health insurance professionals.

**October 28, 2024**

STEAM Workshop *Breast Health Awareness* to promote understanding of breast health among school students as well as their female friends and relatives (annually since 2022).

**December 1-5, 2024**

Fraunhofer MEVIS presents its latest developments in AI-based digital medicine at RSNA 2024 in Chicago.

# AWARDS 2023 / 24

## DGDM Master's Thesis Award 2023

Fraunhofer MEVIS scientist Vanja Cangalovic awarded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Digitale Medizin e.V. (DGDM) for her masters's thesis.

## Second Place at SPIE CAD Live Demo Award 2023

The Fraunhofer MEVIS team takes second place with two demos at the Computer-Aided Diagnosis Live Demonstrations Award at the SPIE Medical Imaging Conference in San Diego.

## Wiley Top Downloaded Articles 2023

Articles by Fraunhofer MEVIS scientists Lars Walczak and Sonja Wichelmann (formerly Jäckle) are among the most downloaded articles in the Wiley journals *Computer Graphics Forum* and *International Journal of Medical Robotics and Computer Assisted Surgery*.

## Second place at SemiCOL Challenge 2023

The MEVIS team wins the second place out of nine participants in the SemiCOL 2023 challenge on semi-supervised learning for colorectal cancer organized under supervision of the European Society of Integrative and Digital Pathology (ESDIP).

## Best Technical Implementation at HACK|BAY 2023

The team around Dennis Philipp recognized for the best technical implementation for the Siemens Healthineers challenge *Improve Children's Radiology Experience* at the HACK|BAY hackathon in Nuremberg.

## University Lübeck's Open Science Prize 2023

Alessa Hering, scientist at Fraunhofer MEVIS and Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen, receives the University of Lübeck's Open Science Prize 2023 for her commitment to co-organizing the challenge *Learn2Reg: Open Science in Medical Image Registration*.

## Highly Cited Researcher 2023

Professor Fabian Kiessling recognized by Clarivate as a Highly Cited Researcher 2023 in the Pharmacology and Toxicology

category. This is the fifth consecutive year he has been on the Highly Cited Researcher list.

## NordWest Award 2024

The project Model Region for Industrial Mathematics (MOIN) received the NordWest Award of the Metropolitan Region Northwest. Fraunhofer MEVIS is a partner in the sub-project #MOIN Campus Neighborhood.

## Research Prize in Orthopedics and Trauma Surgery 2024

Researchers from Fraunhofer MEVIS, the University Medical Center Freiburg, and Stryker Leibinger GmbH & Co. KG received the Research Prize for Digitalization in Orthopedics and Trauma Surgery 2024 for their publication entitled *Validation of a Finite Element Simulation for Predicting Individual Knee Joint Kinematics*.

## Best Animation at Raw Science Film Festival 2024

The documentary *We Flow into the World, and the World Flows into Us — The Beauty of Blood Flow* a joint work of Marshmallow Laser Feast and Fraunhofer MEVIS, received the Industry Award for Best Animation at the Raw Science Film Festival 2024 in New York.

## Highly Cited Researcher 2024

Professor Fabian Kiessling recognized by Clarivate as a Highly Cited Researcher 2024 in the Pharmacology and Toxicology category. This is the sixth consecutive year he has been on the Highly Cited Researcher list.

# SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS 2023/24

## Personalia

On April 3, 2023, the executive board of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft has appointed Prof. Andrea Schenk as deputy director of Fraunhofer MEVIS as. Together with the managing director Prof. Horst Hahn and the deputy institute director Prof. Matthias Günther, Prof. Andrea Schenk forms the new executive leadership of Fraunhofer MEVIS. The previous deputy director Prof. Tobias Preußen is now devoting himself entirely to the development of the TechsoMed GmbH, which was founded in December 2022. In 2023, Fraunhofer MEVIS employees Markus Wenzel and Klaus Eickel were appointed professors at Constructor University Bremen and Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences, respectively.

## Horst Hahn appointed Honorary Member of the DRG

Fraunhofer MEVIS director Prof. Horst Hahn was awarded the honorary membership of the German Radiological Society (DRG) at the German Radiology Congress (Deutscher Röntgenkongress, RÖKO) in Wiesbaden on May 19, 2023. The honorary membership was conferred by Prof. Jörg Barkhausen, president of the DRG 2021-2023 and Director of the Department of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine at the Lübeck Campus of the University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein. At the award ceremony, Horst Hahn gave a talk entitled "AI as a lifesaver in the sea of uncertainty?" in which he highlighted the limitations and opportunities of implementing AI in medicine, which affect both humans and technology.

## Data-efficient foundation model for biomarker detection

Researchers from Fraunhofer MEVIS have developed a foundation model in collaboration with RWTH Aachen University, the University of Regensburg, and Hannover Medical School. The resource-efficient AI model analyzes histopathological tissue samples quickly and reliably, based on only a fraction of the usual training data. The Fraunhofer MEVIS team won the classification section of the international challenge SemiCOL

2023 (Semi-supervised learning for colorectal cancer detection) without having to make expensive adjustments to its model. It outperformed all other models in the classification of histopathological images of colorectal cancer in tumors and healthy tissue, ranking second overall among nine participating teams.

## Fraunhofer MEVIS reduces ecological footprint

In March 2024, Fraunhofer MEVIS commissioned a photovoltaic system on the roof of its institute building in Bremen. With a maximum output of around 50 kilowatts, it is expected to cover around 10 percent of the building's energy requirements with solar energy. This corresponds to a potential saving of around 20 tons of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per year. Like the entire building, the photovoltaic system was financed in equal parts by the federal government, the state of Bremen, and the EU.

## Approval of school specialization "Digital Medicine"

Starting in the 2025/26 school year, a new specialization at the secondary school Oberschule am Waller Ring offers Bremen school students the opportunity to explore future professional fields in medicine. In 2024, the school authorities approved the Digital Medicine specialization, which focuses on how digital methods can enhance healthcare. Prominent examples include medical imaging techniques and the potential of AI. A first pilot phase began in August 2024. The specialization is being developed and offered in cooperation with Fraunhofer MEVIS.

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*The image shows the planning of a tumor ablation in the liver. The FDA-certified image-guided thermal ablation system for a more targeted and effective therapy is the result of a research partnership between Israeli medical technology company TechsoMed Ltd. and Fraunhofer MEVIS, from which the subsidiary TechsoMed GmbH in Bremen emerged in 2022.*



# SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS 2023/24

## Journal Articles 2023

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Breutigam N-J, Hoinkiss DC, Konstandin S, Buck MA, Mahroo A, Eickel K, von Samson-Himmelstjerna F, Günther M (2023) Subject-specific timing adaption in time-encoded arterial spin labeling imaging. *Magn Reson Mater Phys* 37

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