

JUNE 23, 2017



I.R.I.S. recognised as a leading innovator

Überlingen/Aachen – I.R.I.S. AG is one of this year’s leading innovators in the German SME sector. The Aachen-based company will be presented with the *Top 100* award, now in its 24th year, by Ranga Yogeshwar, Professor Nikolaus Franke and compamedia. The independent panel of judges particularly praised the IT company’s adoption of open innovation principles.

I.R.I.S. AG creates order from document chaos: the Aachen-based *TOP 100* company develops software solutions which read and retrieve information from documents and automatically convert it into digital data – thereby saving the company’s customers valuable resources. “The market is fast-moving and there’s a lot of competition, so technological innovations are an absolute must,” explained CEO Günter Hensges. The company, which was founded in 1997, has been part of the Canon Group since 2013 and is one of the Group’s technology competence centres. However, I.R.I.S.’s focus is not solely on technological progress – the company places importance on getting to know its customers’ needs and on understanding how they use the software in practice.

This outward-facing approach has proved to be a winner with the *TOP 100* panel too. A modular product design can be flexibly adapted to special customer requirements, for example. “We need to understand exactly how we can optimise our customers’ processes in order to offer them the best solution,” remarked Manfred Traeger, Sales Director Service Industry. New products are only brought to market after extensive testing. However, an evaluation of current challenges comes first and foremost. These are discussed with selected partners in pilot projects. The company has 50 employees in Germany, although some 500 people work for I.R.I.S. S.A. around the world. Besides Europe, it also has branches in Asia and North America.

The Top 100 competition

Since 1993, compamedia has been awarding the *Top 100* seal of approval to SMEs with a particular ability to innovate and above-average success rates for innovations. Professor Nikolaus Franke has coordinated the project since 2002. He is the founder and director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration and a visiting professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He is one of the world’s leading innovation researchers and has won 18 science awards and published over 200 articles. The *Top 100* is mentored by science journalist and television presenter Ranga Yogeshwar and organised in partnership with the Fraunhofer Society for the Promotion of Applied Research and the German Association for Small and Medium-Sized Businesses (BVMW). Media support for the company benchmarking competition is provided by manager magazin. Further information is available at www.top100-germany.com

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About I.R.I.S. AG

IRIS is a leading provider of 'Content to Process' technologies. Since 1987 IRIS has specialized in providing technologies that capture data and information contained in documents, which are relevant to business processes. Our core technology is IRISXtract™ which is used for automated processing of invoices and orders, HR and supplier records as well as case management documents in the legal, healthcare, and finance industries. I.R.I.S. Group has offices in Europe, Asia and North America. More than 500 employees work in an environment that encourages creativity and the exchange of ideas, as well as selfresponsibility. Cultural diversity among our employees is what inspires us and helps that innovations come true. Since June 2013 I.R.I.S. is part of the Canon Group – one of the leading innovators and suppliers of imaging solutions. Canon and IRIS will work together to offer customers more advanced solutions and services.

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