

Media Release

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Rieter and the Johann Jacob Rieter Foundation Sponsor Professorship for Artificial Intelligence at the ZHAW

The Rieter Group is constantly expanding its technology leadership. Together with the Johann Jacob Rieter Foundation, the company is therefore supporting a new Endowed Professorship for Industrial Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the ZHAW School of Engineering. The Professorship is dedicated to teaching and research in the field of industrial applications of Artificial Intelligence and will be announced later this year.

The new Endowed Professorship will be established at the Center for Artificial Intelligence (CAI) of the ZHAW in Winterthur. It will focus, in particular, on the application of machine learning methods and knowledge-based systems in connection with processes in production and service. “The use of artificial intelligence in industry is becoming increasingly important, especially with regard to the potential of data for evaluation and control of complex processes. The support of the Johann Jacob Rieter Foundation and the Rieter Group will allow us to further expand AI research in the field of industrial applications,” explains Prof. Dr. Dirk Wilhelm, Director of the ZHAW School of Engineering.

For Rieter, the commitment is related to the implementation of its technology leadership strategy. “The use of Artificial Intelligence will make a significant contribution to automation and process optimization, and thereby advance sustainability in the textile industry. This makes it an important element of the leading technology that Rieter offers,” emphasizes Rieter CEO Dr. Norbert Klapper.

The contribution of the Johann Jacob Rieter Foundation to sponsoring the Professorship is in line with the Winterthur Cluster Initiative. The increasing digitalization of production processes opens up new perspectives for Winterthur as a business location. “The Smart Machines cluster is growing in importance,” says Thomas Anwander, member of the Foundation Board, and adds: “The Endowed Professorship for Industrial AI at the ZHAW aims to promote Winterthur as a technology location by pooling locally available strengths in mechanical engineering and Industry 4.0.”

Building expertise in the field of Industrial AI

The Endowed Professorship will serve to build expertise in the field of Industrial AI and will oversee a group that will focus on teaching and research pertaining to trustworthy machine learning. This involves, for example, the deployment of artificial intelligence with the aim of optimizing production processes in relation to the use of raw materials and energy, and making expert knowledge more readily available.

In addition to research, for the purpose of knowledge transfer, the new professorship will also be active in teaching, in the bachelor's degree programs in Computer Science and in Data Science, in the Master of Science in Engineering, and in continuing education.

The annual commitment of CHF 300 000 over a period of six years will be financed equally by the Rieter Group and the Johann Jacob Rieter Foundation.

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About the ZHAW School of Engineering

The School of Engineering is one of the eight departments of the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences. With 14 institutes and centers, the ZHAW School of Engineering is one of the leading technical education and research institutions in Switzerland. It guarantees superior-quality education and continuing professional training and provides business with innovative solutions with an emphasis on the areas of energy, mobility, information, and health. www.zhaw.ch/engineering

About Rieter

Rieter is the world's leading supplier of systems for manufacturing yarn from staple fibers in spinning mills. Based in Winterthur (Switzerland), the company develops and manufactures machinery, systems and components for the cost-effective, sustainable processing of natural and manmade fibers and their blends. Leading spinning technology from Rieter contributes to sustainability in the textile value chain. Rieter, which has been in existence for over 225 years, has 18 manufacturing locations in ten countries and employs a global workforce of some 5 480, about 16.5 % of which is based in Switzerland. Rieter is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange under ticker symbol RIEN. www.rieter.com

About the Johann Jacob Rieter Foundation

The Johann Jacob Rieter Foundation, established in 1963, supports charitable, cultural, scientific and artistic organizations, such as schools, scientific undertakings of all kinds as well as students and individuals engaged in scientific activities, preferably in the catchment area of Winterthur.