

Change in the VDE ITG Executive Board: Chairman Prof. Dr. Hans D. Schotten hands over to his deputy Dr. Volker Ziegler

- **The Information Technology Society in the VDE (VDE ITG), VDE's oldest and largest technical society, celebrates its 70th birthday in 2024**
- **Prof. Dr. Hans D. Schotten, who has strongly shaped VDE ITG over the past six years, is stepping down as Chairman of the Executive Board at the start of the anniversary year**
- **His successor and former deputy Dr. Volker Ziegler wants above all to "shape innovation and digital transformation in society and industry and promote the further networking of the physical and digital world. Ultimately, it's about a future worth living and the expansion of human possibilities."**

(Frankfurt a. M., 02.01.2024) At the beginning of the anniversary year, Prof. Dr. Hans D. Schotten hands over the chairmanship of the Executive Board to his deputy Dr. Volker Ziegler – an important step from Schotten's point of view, which goes hand in hand with a sensible limitation of the term of office. When asked how successful VDE ITG is in defending its position on current issues, the 58-year-old says in retrospect: "If the timing was right and you were lucky enough to attract the attention of relevant decision-makers and the public with an issue, then it worked well. This was the case, for example, with the ITG position on technological sovereignty in 2021, which has had a lasting impact on today's definition."

Focus on digital transformation and image change

Dr. Volker Ziegler has been a member of the VDE since 1986 and took over as Deputy Chairman of VDE ITG in 2021. Ziegler is very well connected through his global technological leadership role at Nokia Strategy and Technology and also through his special involvement in selected EU and federal funding projects, his work in the [Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers \(IEEE\)](#) and as spokesman for the "Communication Networks of the Future" expert

panel of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Regional Development and Energy. As the new Chairman of the Board, the 58-year-old sees two key areas of activity for the technical society: "The focus is certainly on shaping the digital transformation, in particular the convergence of the physical and digital world. For example, this involves cloud-based networks, artificial intelligence, new wireless technologies and the use of new frequencies. We also need to correct the encrusted image that many people have of electrical engineering. This is the prerequisite for promoting the next generation of engineers." In this context, it is important to realize that there are numerous overlaps with topics that Generation Z is concerned with. In Ziegler's view, these include not only sustainability and climate protection, but also security, the protection of privacy in the age of digital twins and ultimately the competitiveness of Germany as a business location – a prerequisite for maintaining prosperity and living standard.

Dr. Jörg-Peter Elbers becomes the new Deputy Chairman of the VDE ITG Management Board

Dr. Jörg-Peter Elbers, who is responsible for research, standardization and intellectual property rights at Adtran, has been a member of the ITG Executive Board since 2020 and replaces Dr. Volker Ziegler as Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board. In addition to his activities as head of the [ITG Communications Technology department](#) (in German) and in the KT3 "Optical Communications Technology" technical committee, where he was head from 2011 to 2018, Elbers is also very active at an international level. The 52-year-old is a member of the steering committee of the European Technology Platform for Network Technology (Networld Europe) and the IEEE Photonic Society. His vision for VDE ITG is to establish the professional association as the "voice of technology that explains ICT technologies and their application in an understandable way and takes an objective position in current discussions". The promotion of technical-scientific exchange through conferences, workshops and new online formats, as well as strategies to get pupils interested in technology, are also on his agenda.

The newly elected [VDE ITG Board of Directors](#) (in German)

Industry Group

- Dr.-Ing. Jörg-Peter Elbers, Adtran Networks SE, Martinsried
- Dr.-Ing. Yvonne Weitsch, Rohde & Schwarz International GmbH, Munich
- Dr.-Ing. Volker Ziegler, Nokia Bell Labs, Munich

Science and Teaching Group

- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Gerhard Bauch, Hamburg University of Technology

- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Tim Fingscheidt, Braunschweig University of Technology
- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ralf Tönjes, Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences

Group of service providers, network operators and research institutes

- Stefan Brüggewirth, Fraunhofer Institute for High Frequency Physics and Radar Techniques FHR, Wachtberg
- Dr.-Ing. Andreas Gladisch, Deutsche Telekom AG, Berlin
- Prof. Dr. techn. habil. Rüdiger Quay, Fraunhofer Institute for Applied Solid State Physics, Freiburg (IAF) / Department of Sustainable Systems Engineering (INATECH), University of Freiburg

About the Information Technology Society within VDE (VDE ITG)

The Information Technology Society within VDE (VDE ITG) is the national association of all people working in the field of information technology in business, administration, teaching and research and science. Its objectives are to promote the scientific and technical development and evaluation of information technology in theory and practice. Founded in 1954 as the Nachrichtentechnische Gesellschaft, it is the oldest professional association in the VDE. Its nine technical divisions, to which more than 80 technical committees are assigned, represent the entire spectrum of information technology. About 10,000 VDE members have assigned themselves to the ITG and more than 1,000 experts work voluntarily in the committees.

For more information, visit www.vde.com/itg

About VDE

VDE, one of the largest technology organizations in Europe, has been regarded as a synonym for innovation and technological progress for more than 130 years. VDE is the only organization in the world that combines science, standardization, testing, certification, and application consulting under one umbrella. The VDE mark has been synonymous with the highest safety standards and consumer protection for more than 100 years.

Our passion is the advancement of technology, the next generation of engineers and technologists, and lifelong learning and career development “on the job”. Within the VDE network more than 2,000 employees at over 60 locations worldwide, more than 100,000 honorary experts, and around 1,500 companies are dedicated to ensuring a future worth living: networked, digital, electrical. Shaping the e-dialistic future.

The VDE (VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies) is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main. For more information, visit www.vde.com

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