Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy Systems IWES · Summary Report 2024/2025 · Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy Systems IWES · Summary Report 2024/2025 · Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy Systems IWES · Summary Report 2024/2025 · Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy Systems IWES · Summary Report 2024/2025 ·

Fraunhofer
IWES

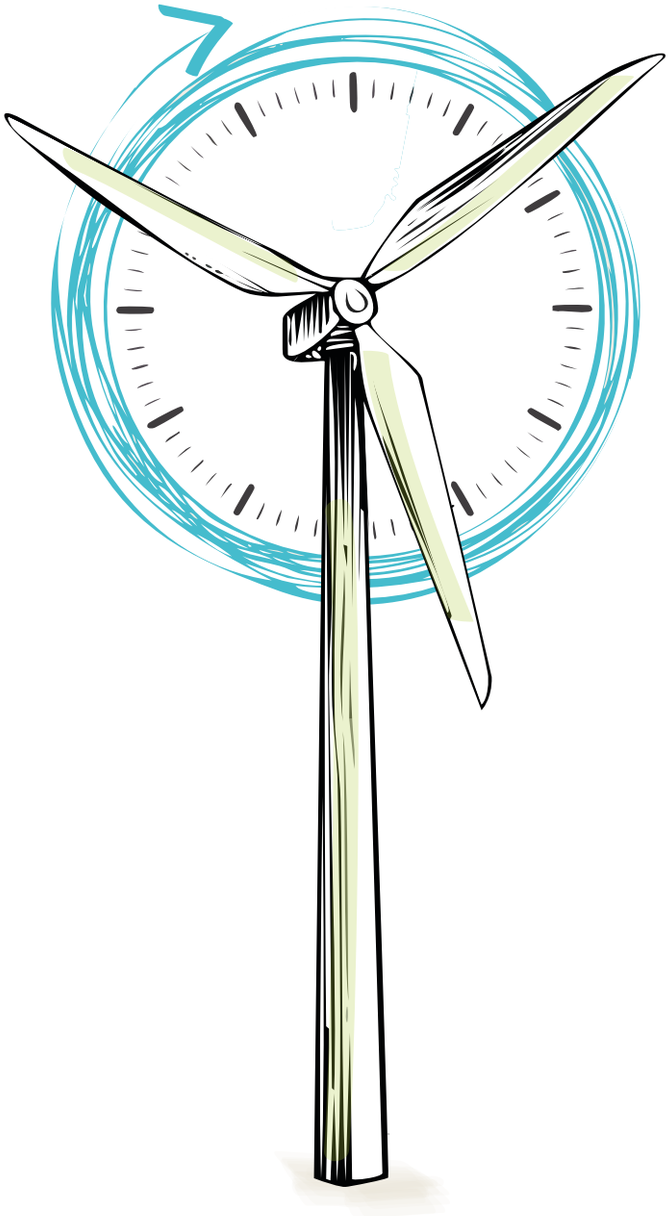
SUMMARY REPORT

DEAR READERS,

2024 and the first half of 2025 proved to be a challenging time for Fraunhofer IWES: The research environment was plagued by political and economic uncertainties. However, positive developments are now being seen at both national and European level. The IWES with its focus topics of Offshore, Test infrastructure, Hydrogen, and Digitalization is very well positioned to make substantial contributions to the success of the energy transition on this basis.

In this report, we will be focusing on the most important figures and data from the institute in summary.

Prof. Andreas Reuter
Managing Director

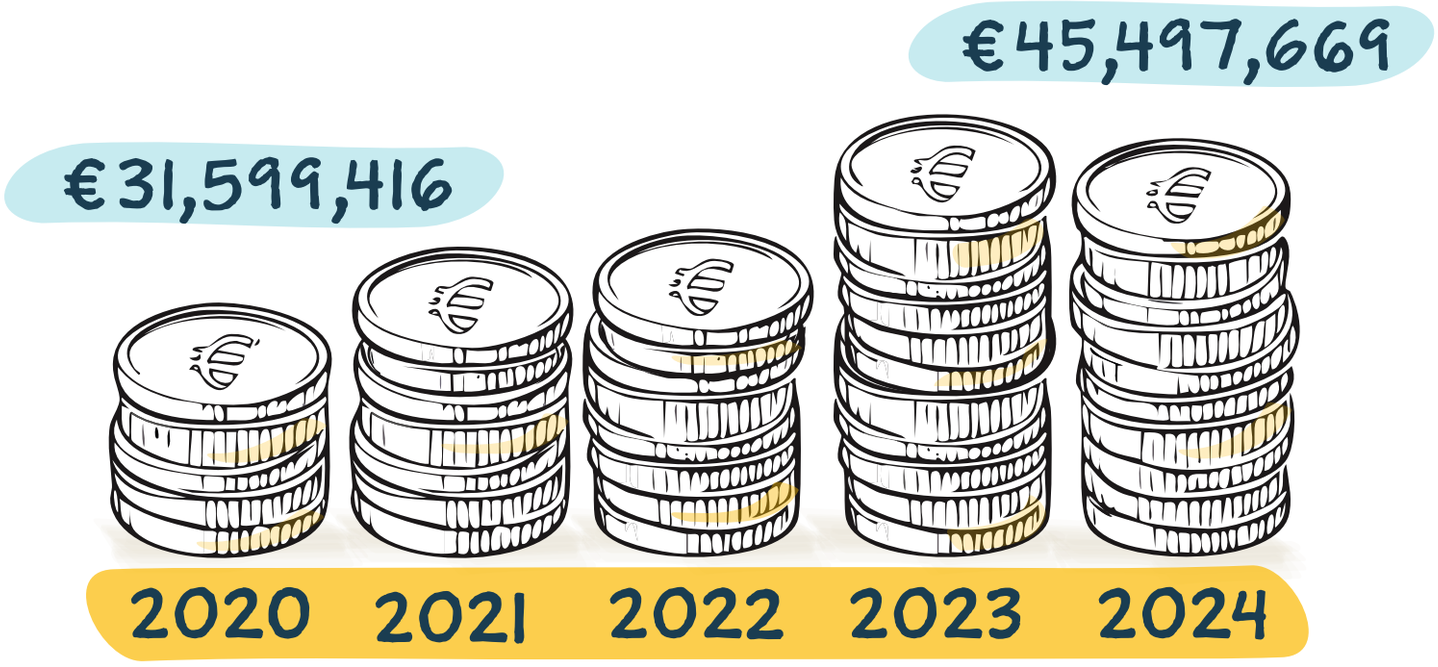


2024 FISCAL YEAR

The 2024 fiscal year was marked by significantly limited financial resources as a result of budget difficulties associated with the loss of funding from the German Climate and Transformation Fund. This was compounded by uncertainties resulting from the collapse of the government coalition, which led to provisional budget management.

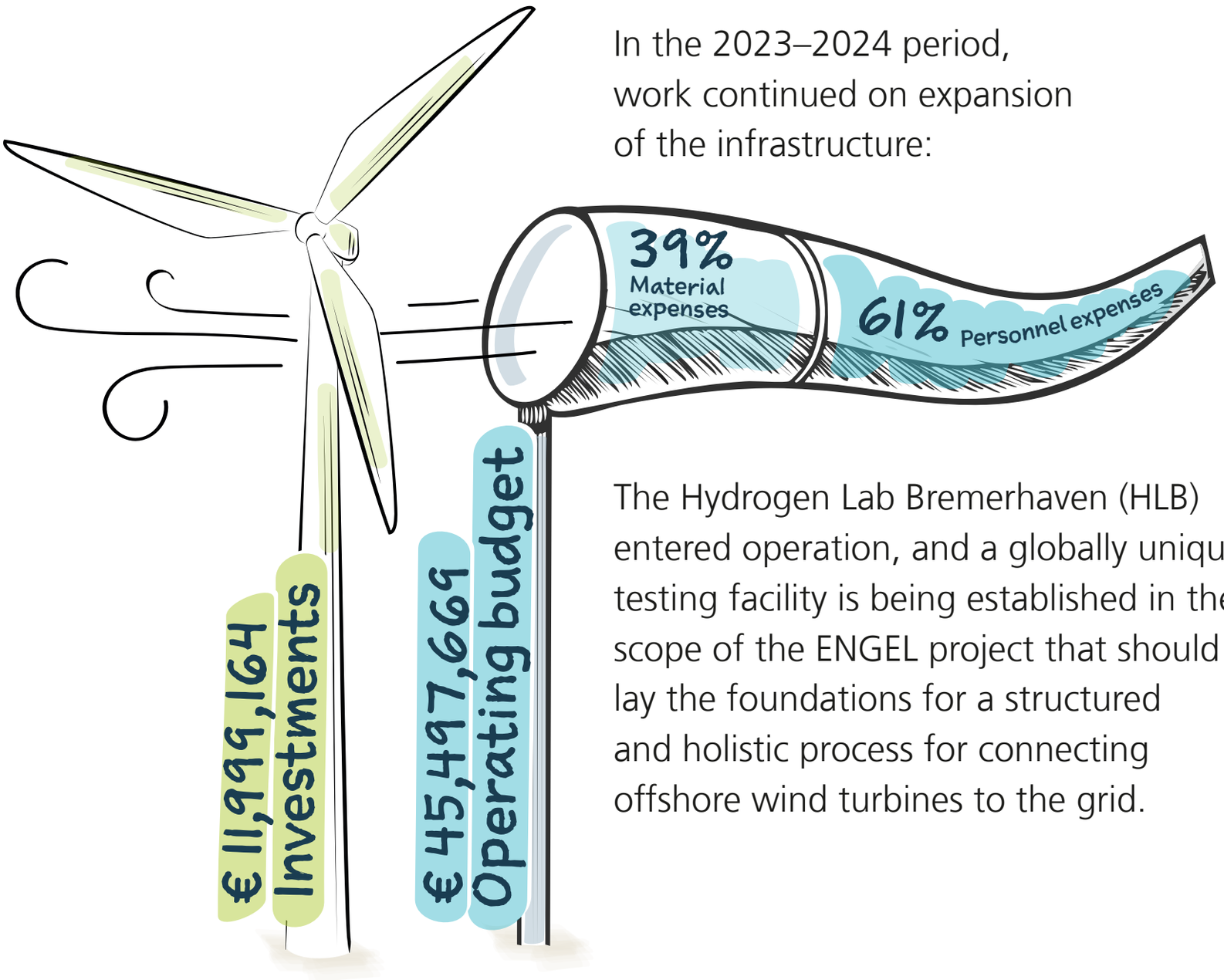
In addition, there were indications of consolidation trends in the industrial environment – in both the wind energy and hydrogen sectors. Nevertheless, superb expertise and infrastructure capabilities made it possible to achieve solid financial results despite these limited development opportunities.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OPERATING BUDGET



The operating budget for 2024 was down by more than two percent compared with the previous year. At the same time, there were also significantly less funds available for future investments. This is where the loss of funding from the Climate and Transformation Fund at Federal level was noticeably affecting the institute.

COMPOSITION OF THE BUDGET

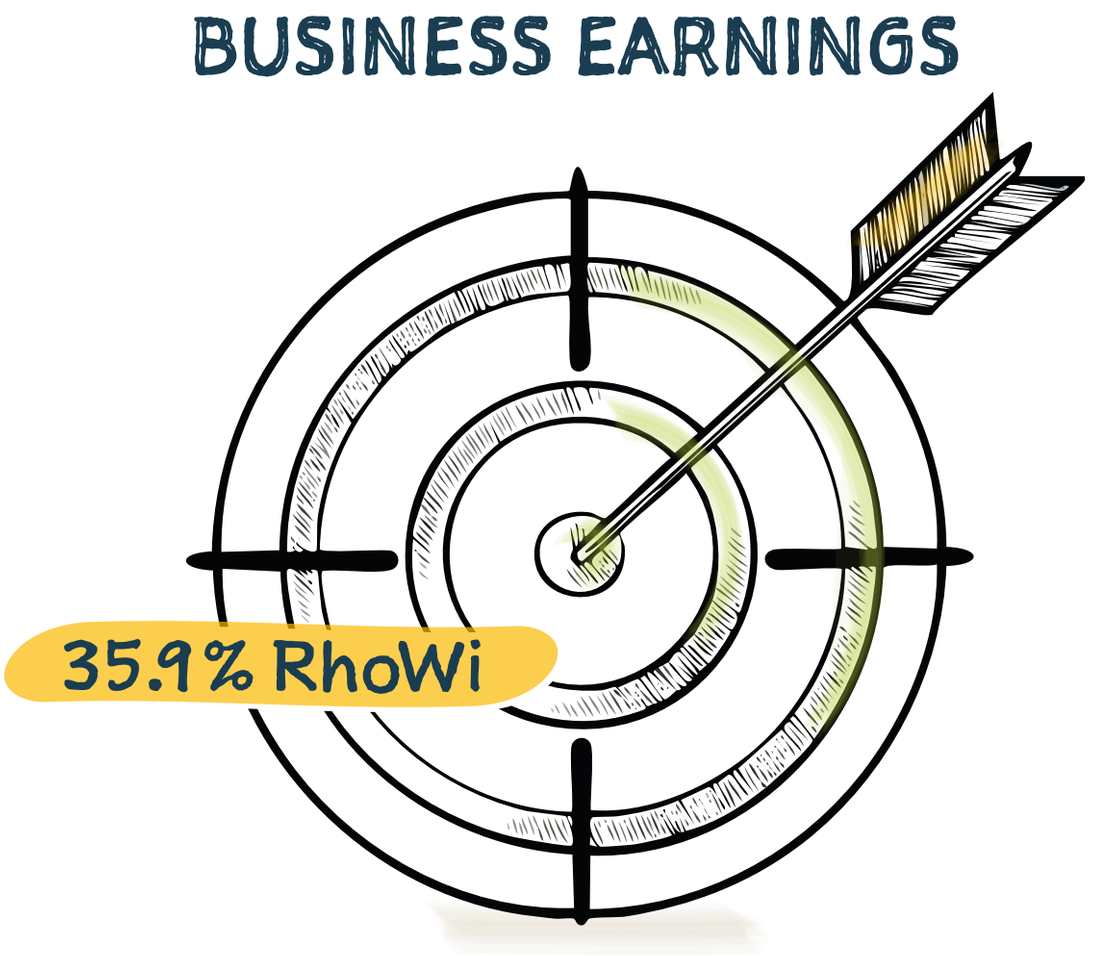


In the 2023–2024 period, work continued on expansion of the infrastructure:

The Hydrogen Lab Bremerhaven (HLB) entered operation, and a globally unique testing facility is being established in the scope of the ENGEL project that should lay the foundations for a structured and holistic process for connecting offshore wind turbines to the grid.

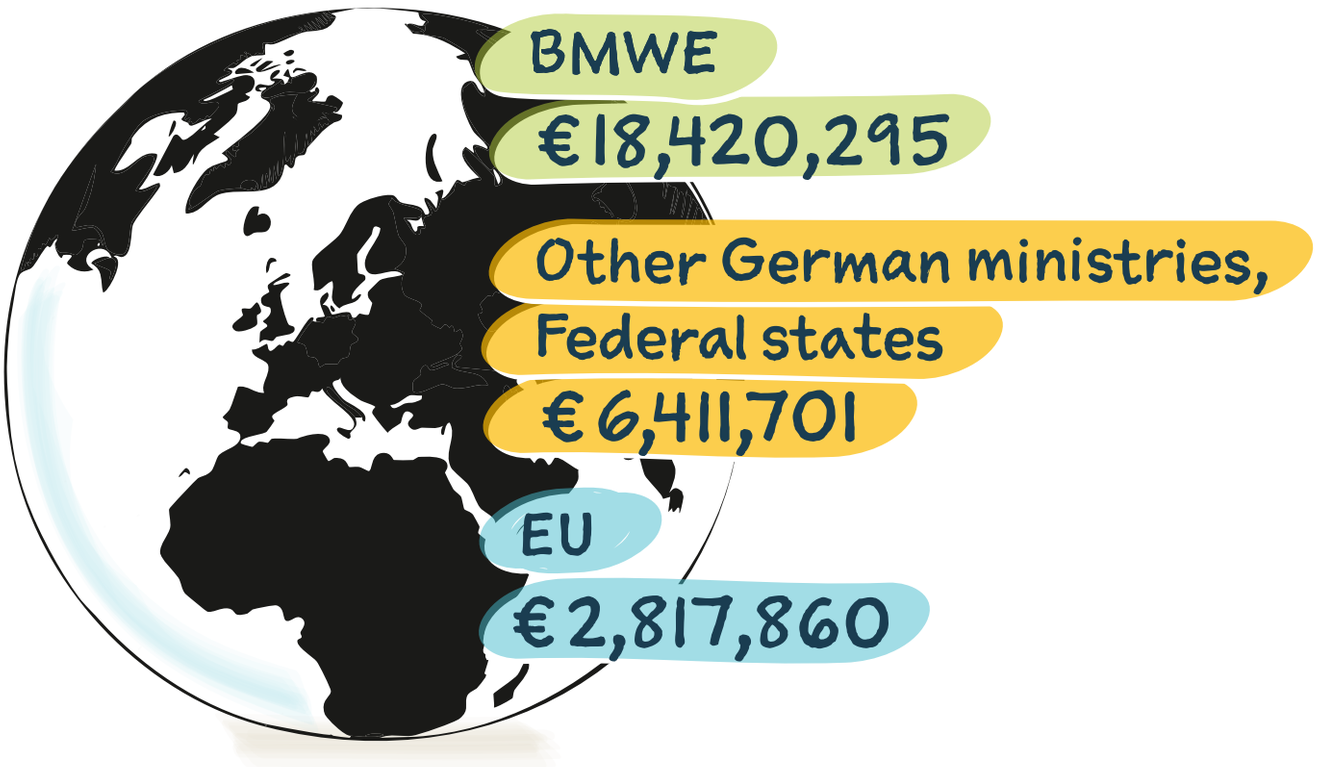
ORIGIN OF BUSINESS EARNINGS

With business earnings of between almost €18 million (2023) and just over €16 million (2024), the institute continues to meet Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's financial targets. The fluctuations were predominantly due to accounting-related allocation of business earnings.



The important internal Fraunhofer key figure “RhoWi” (ratio of business earnings to operating budget) of 35.9% was reached again, and thus all of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft’s targets met.

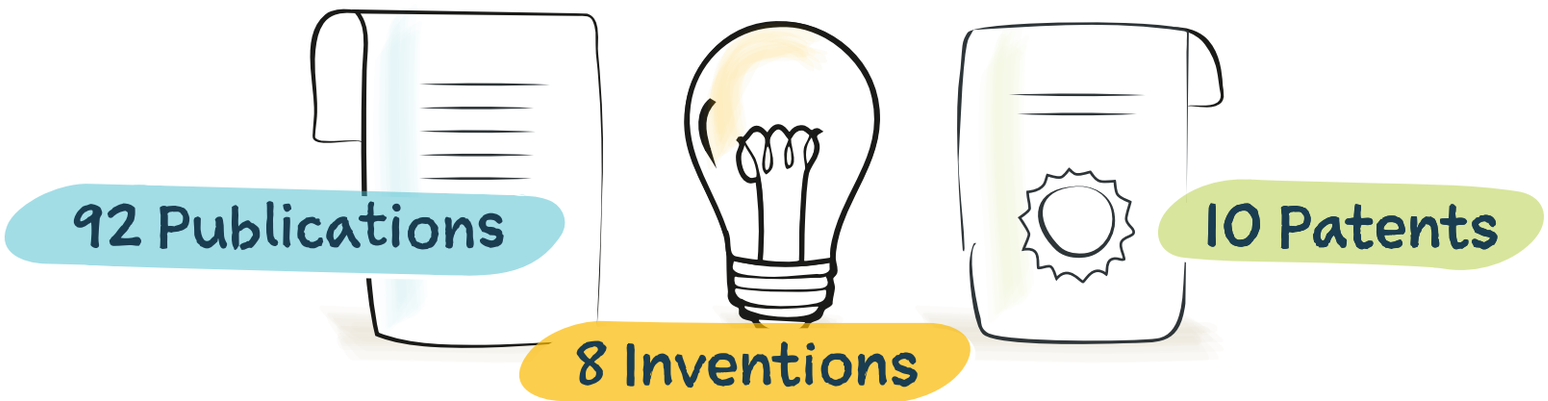
ORIGIN OF PUBLIC REVENUES



As in previous periods, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) remained by far the most important source of public funding. Funding from other German ministries and Federal states is increasing proportionally and has now become the second most important source of financing. As such, clear progress is being made as regards the goal of financial diversification.

SCIENTIFIC INNOVATIONS

The innovative strength of an institute is a flagship asset which plays a key role in the acquisition of new customers, the retention of existing customers, and being regarded as a pioneer in the field. Fraunhofer IWES reported eight invention disclosures in cooperation with partner companies and 10 patent applications in 2024.



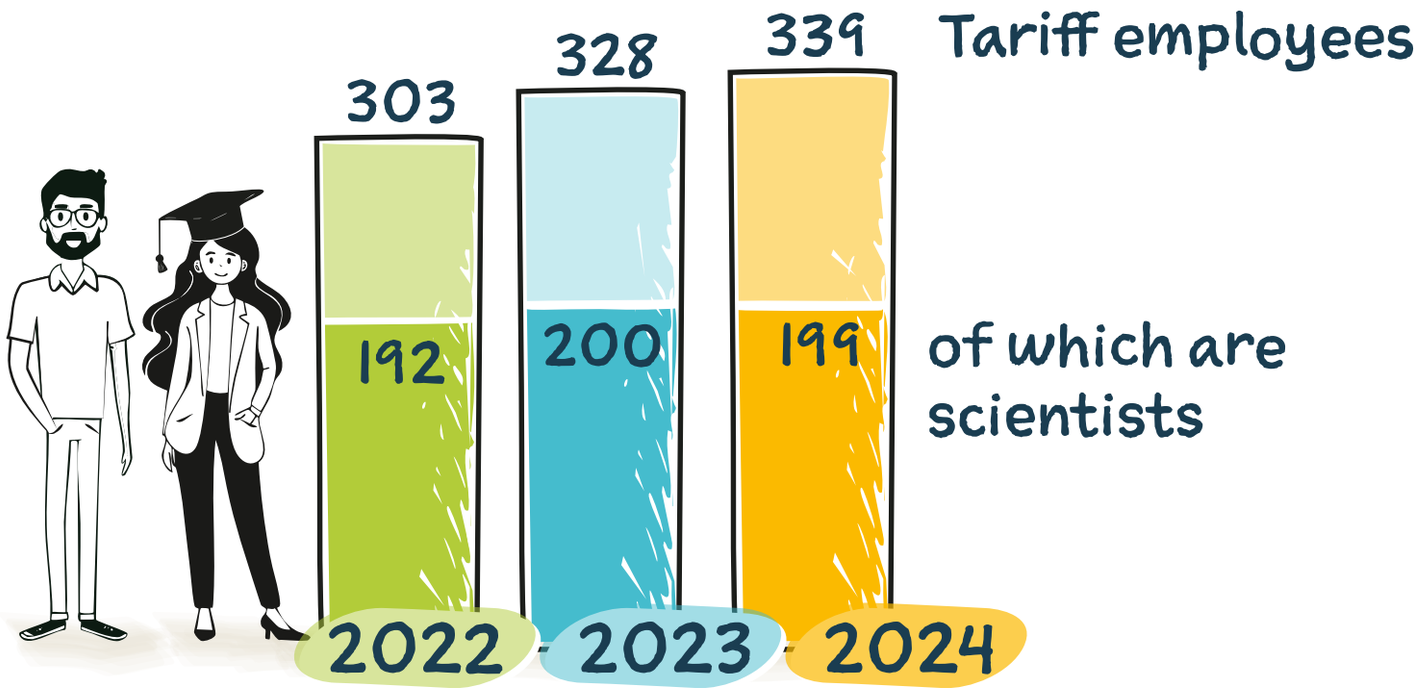
73 master's theses were completed, 6 research-focused postgraduate students earned their doctorates, and Fraunhofer IWES employees published 92 scientific publications.

GROWING TOGETHER TO MASTER CHALLENGES

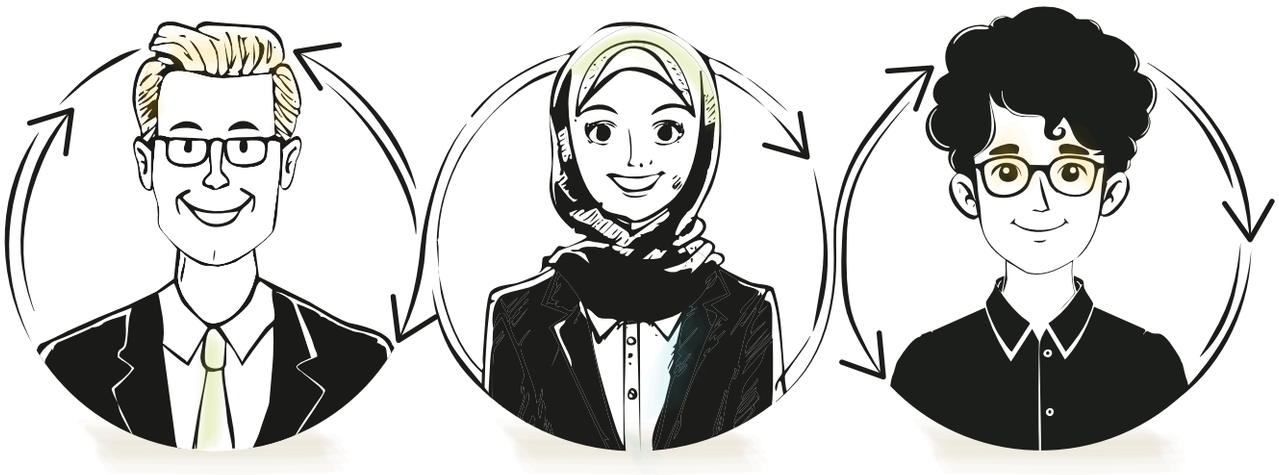
With its broad spectrum of topics in the field of wind energy, Fraunhofer IWES brings together professionals from a wide range of backgrounds: From wind physics to mechanical engineering, from seismics to software engineering – along with specialists from the internal service areas – there are a total of 340 highly motivated members of staff. This competent basis enables the institute to offer its research partners outstanding expertise for all the challenges in the wind energy and hydrogen sectors.

PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT IN 2024

The continuously increasing administrative requirements demand qualified growth in the area of organizational services, so as to relieve scientific staff of administrative tasks to the greatest possible extent. The currently restrictive funding policy requires us to focus on our existing competencies and strengths in order to be able to develop the urgently needed innovative solutions for the energy transition in collaboration with our industry partners.

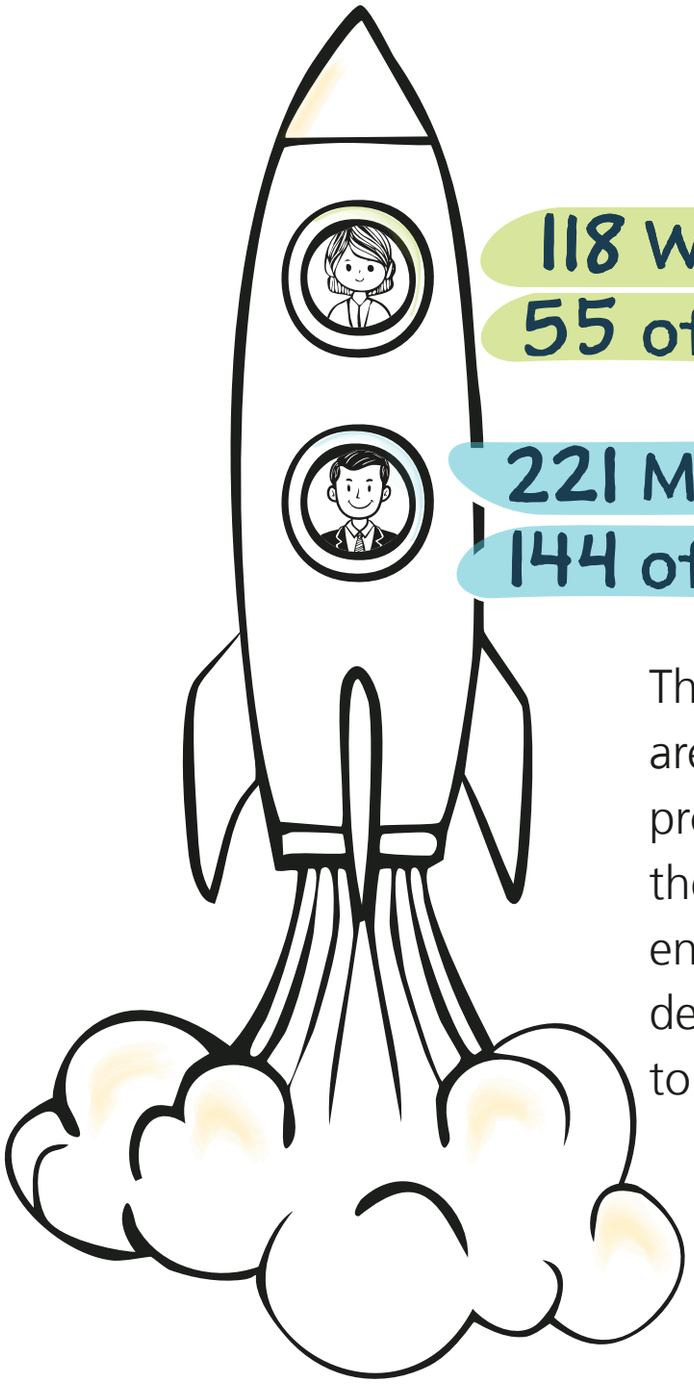


FRAUNHOFER MISSION: TRANSFER VIA INDIVIDUALS



Close collaboration with the industry and a consistent focus on its requirements ensure young scientists are well prepared for careers in wind energy companies. This creates a tight-knit network between research and industry, with both sides benefiting from important mutual impulses. Reflecting the institute’s global orientation, strong emphasis is placed on representing internationality and diversity internally as well. This objective is supported by a variety of initiatives.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN 2024



118 Women

55 of which are scientists

221 Men

144 of which are scientists

The creative minds working at the institute are its key success factor. An active HR service provides assistance across all areas to support the “IWES spirit” and foster a positive working environment. The training and further development opportunities readily accessible to all employees are transparent and diverse.

Imprint:

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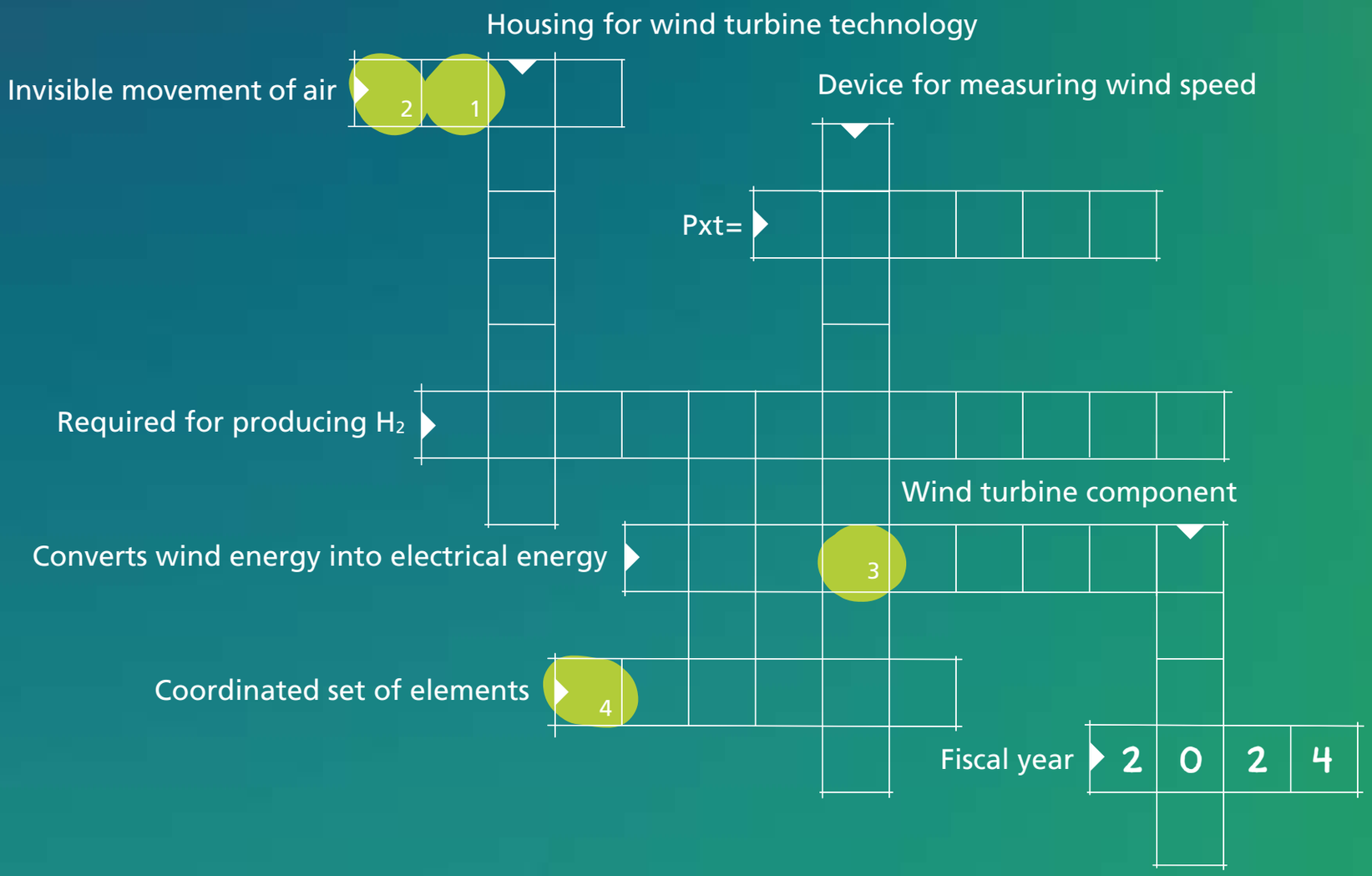

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