

Excellence Strategy

of the German Federal and State Governments

Clusters of Excellence Funding Line

General information about the “Excellence Strategy”

- **The aim of the “Excellence Strategy”**
 - Strengthen Germany’s position as an outstanding place for research in the long term and further improve its international competitiveness
 - Continue the development of German universities successfully begun with the Excellence Initiative in 2005 by supporting research of the highest standard, enhancing research profiles, and facilitating cooperation in the research system
- **Two funding lines of the new program**
 1. **Clusters of Excellence (COE)** for project-based funding in internationally competitive fields of research at universities or university consortia
 2. **Universities of Excellence (UOE)** to strengthen universities as individual institutions or as university consortia in the long term and further develop their leading international role on the basis of successful COEs

➔ **The DFG is responsible for developing and implementing the COE funding line**



“Clusters of Excellence” (COE) funding line (I)

- **Funding duration**
 - For a period of **seven years (2019–2025)**
 - A **second funding period** of another seven years is possible
- **Funding scope**
 - Approx. **385 million € per year** for the COE funding line
 - **45 and 50 COE** planned (currently: 88 clusters and graduate schools)
 - Each COE receives **3–10 million €** annually (including 22% overhead)
 - **Additional funds (“university allowance”)** of **1 M€/a** can be requested on the basis of an outline of the university’s strategic objectives (only for the full proposal). This is designed to strengthen university governance and the strategic orientation of the institution
 - The university allowance is reduced for the second cluster: 750 T€ /a and for each additional cluster 500 T€/a
 - If a grant is awarded to a **consortium of universities**, the partners will share the university allowance on a proportional basis
- **Structure**
 - More flexibility compared to previous rounds (e.g., involvement of non-university entities)



“Clusters of Excellence” (COE) funding line (II)

■ Program objectives

- The Clusters of Excellence funding line is designed to support project-based funding in internationally competitive research fields at universities and university consortia

■ Proposals & deadlines

- Proposal process consists of **two stages** (draft proposal & full proposal)
- For the purposes of planning the review boards by the DFG, **letters of intent** must be submitted **Dec. 1, 2016**
- **Draft proposals** must be received by the DFG by **Apr. 3, 2017**
- **Full proposals** must be received by **Feb. 19, 2018**
- **Draft proposals and full proposals**
 - must generally be written in **English**
 - must be endorsed by the **responsible research authorities at the state level** before being submitted to the DFG



“Clusters of Excellence” at UA Ruhr

- **Several cluster proposal** are planned by the UA RUHR universities
- Some of them involve **two UA RUHR universities**
- **Only be one proposal** involves **all three UA RUHR universities**
- The tentative title is:

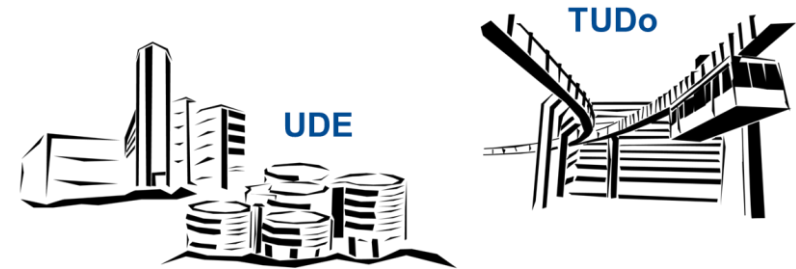
**Materials Chain Ruhr (MC-Ruhr):
Predictive Materials Science and Technology
across Length Scales**

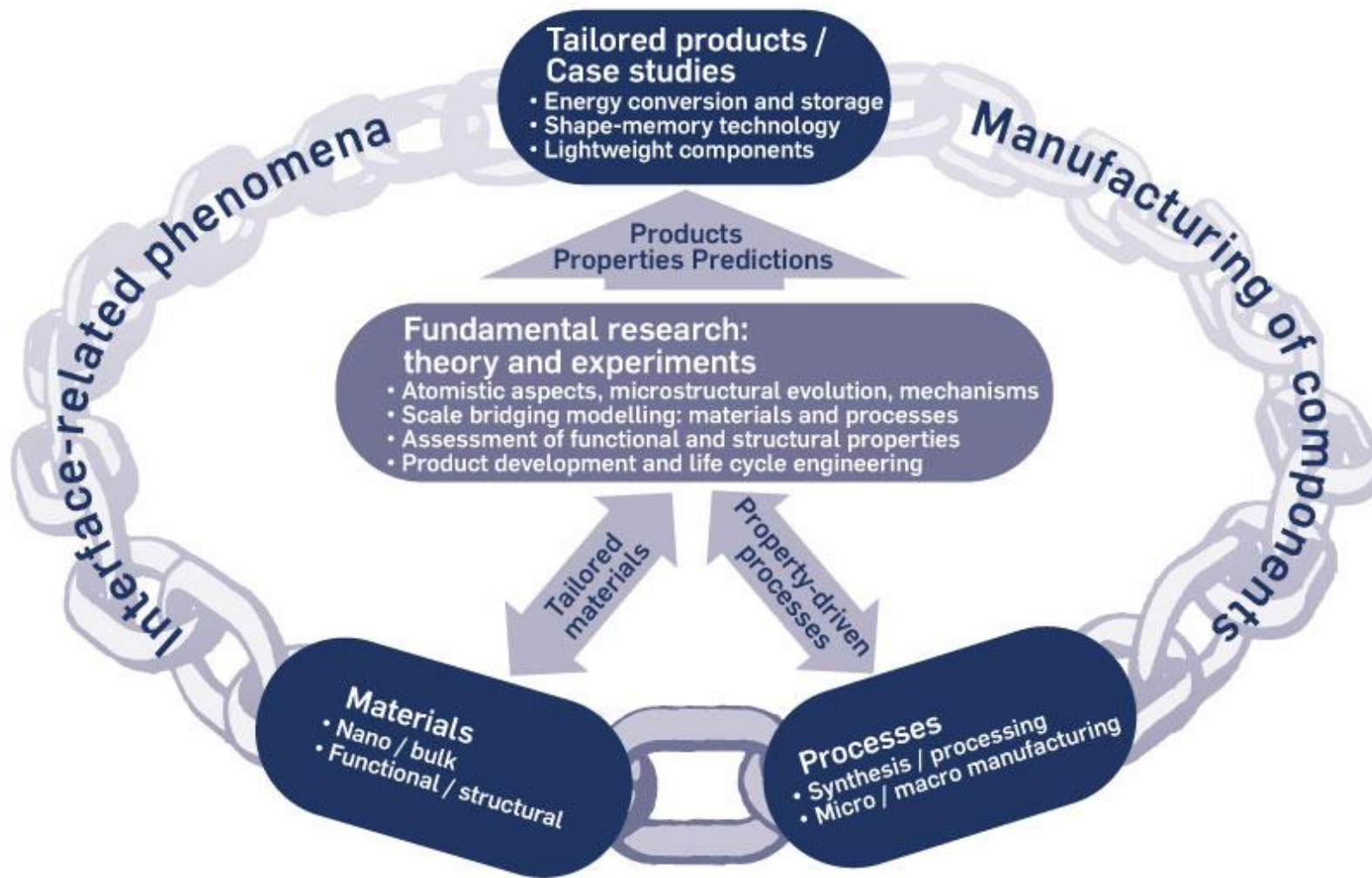
▪ **Coordinators**

- Gunther Eggeler (RUB) / Erman Tekkaya (TUDo)
- Christof Schulz (UDE)

▪ **Structure**

- 25 Principal Investigators
from RUB, TUDo, RUB (in total: 20),
and MPI E, MPI CEC, MPI KOFO, DLR, FZ-Jülich (in total: 5)
- Additional persons / institutions (few)
- Associated researchers (~30)
- Industry

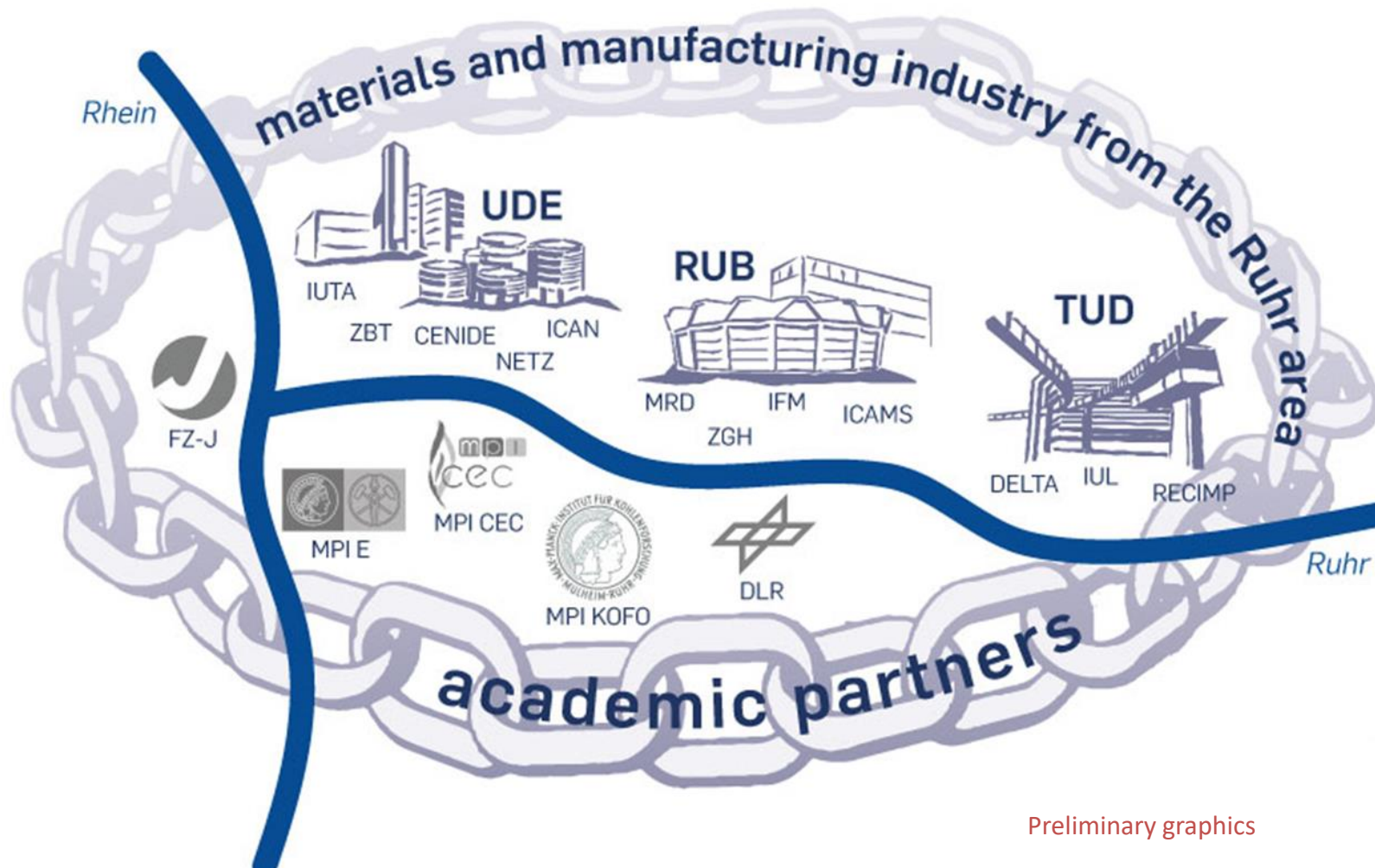




5 Case studies

- Battery
- Thermoelectrics
- Electrocatalysis
- Shape-memory technology
- Lightweight components

Preliminary graphics



Current status

- PIs selected
- PI meeting in december
- ➔ Implementation of working groups with respective associated reserachers

Preliminary graphics