



PAST EVENTS

OUTCOMES OF THE SECOND RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY — CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GERMAN POLICE UNIVERSITY



Knut Bültemeier
German Police University
Germany

On 4 and 5 June 2014, the German Police University in Münster hosted the Second Research and Technology Conference. Numerous departments of the university, as well as national and international experts from universities, think tanks, and industry and law enforcement agencies, contributed to the conference.

The conference was held to improve the international networking between law enforcement agencies and potential partners in different fields of technology. It was organised by the German Police University (Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei — DHPol) in cooperation with one of the German chapters of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA). The German Police University in Münster is funded by the ministries

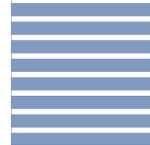
and senators of the interior of the German federal state and the 16 states of Germany. It was founded for the further training of senior police officers from all German police forces. The university unites academic researches with the expertise of experienced police officers. Research and teaching chairs at the university are manned by senior police officers and regular professors. The current president of the German Police University, since 1 July 2014, is Professor Dr Hans-Juergen Lange.



The Vice-President of the German Police University Gerd Thielmann, Friedrich W. Benz, AFCEA, Jörg Ziercke, President of the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (Bundeskriminalamt — BKA) and Erich Staudacher, AFCEA and a representative from industry at the exhibition

The AFCEA was founded in 1946 and serves government agencies, industry, and academia as a forum for advancing professional knowledge and networking in the fields of communications, information technology, intelligence, and security. The AFCEA is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation. The German chapter in Bonn is headed by Erich Staudacher who is supported by a board that consists of experienced professionals from government agencies as well as industry. The AFCEA was therefore an ideal partner for the Second Research and Technology Conference of the German Police University.





One of the aims of the conference was the transfer of technological solutions from other areas of application into the law enforcement sector. Solutions from different research and development projects are already operational in other fields and could therefore provide law enforcement agencies with valuable experience, expertise and equipment.

The conference began on the morning of 4 June 2014 in a conference centre near the German Police University in Münster. The 380 attendees were welcomed by Gerd Thielmann, Vice-President of the German Police University and by Erich Staudacher, chairman of the AFCEA, Bonn. After the welcome addresses, Joerg Ziercke, President of the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (Bundeskriminalamt — BKA) outlined current technological challenges and anticipated future developments in research and technology.

This was followed by three presentations by senior police officers, who outlined current technological challenges in fictitious scenarios, which gave detailed information about real issues that were encountered over the last years. The scenarios covered the areas of terrorism, security for visiting heads of state and highly mobile criminal organisations. These scenarios covered a wide range of issues in the fields of research and development which can also be transferred to other fields of law enforcement. These scenario presentations were intended to enhance the understanding of law enforcement issues among the scientific community and industry professionals and were warmly welcomed. The lack of understanding of law enforcement requirements frequently hinders research and development projects. This was successfully addressed with these presentations.

The second part of the conference took place at the German Police University. Presentations were given in seven technology fields. Researchers and industry professionals presented solutions and projects in the fields of:

- ✓ IT systems for command and control
- ✓ mobile computing for law enforcement agencies
- ✓ geographic information systems (GIS)
- ✓ sensor technology



The exhibition was warmly welcomed by law enforcement professionals and other guests

- ✓ video systems and video analysis
- ✓ AIR
- ✓ terrorism, amok and related issues.

Additionally the EU Liaison Office of the German Research Organisations (KoWi), the Technology Centre of the Association of German Engineers (VDI) and the federally funded project fit4sec presented current research opportunities within the national research funding framework and within the EU Horizon 2020 framework. Especially the Horizon 2020 calls related to safety and security were of great interest for law enforcement agencies and could provide valuable opportunities over the coming years.

Research institutes, universities and industry also used the opportunity to exhibit current developments at stands within an exhibition that also took place at the German Police University. The exhibition facilitated a more personal exchange of ideas and concepts and allowed detailed explanations of existing technology.

This exchange was particularly fruitful because of the composition of the audience. Over 50 % of attendees were law enforcement officers, others researchers and scientists from universities, think tanks and industry. The German Police University welcomed a total of 380 attendees from 10 nations.

The internationalisation of the work of the German Police University is of great significance. It opens new doors for cooperation and exchange among the law enforcement community and facilitates academic excellence at the German Police University. Furthermore, especially the



*International guests at the German Police University
(Swiss Police Officers pictures)*

Horizon 2020 programme requires international cooperation and projects within this research funding framework can only be successful if academic excellence is combined with broad support from the end user side.

The conference concept was developed by Dipl. Ing. Dietrich Laepke who also organised the First Research and Technology Conference in 2012. Dietrich Laepke is the head of the organisational unit 'Security Research Coordination at the German Police University' and organised the Second Research and Technology Conference in 2014.

Pictures: Silvia Herbold