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German institutions among world leaders on global scientific stage

PRESS RELEASE FROM NATURE PUBLISHING GROUP

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Max Planck Society and the Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres lead a strong performance by German institutions on the world scientific stage according to a ranking of the top 200 scientific institutions worldwide in 2012.

Published today, the first Nature Publishing Index (NPI) Global supplement ranks countries and institutions according to their output of primary research articles in the 18 Nature research journals in 2012, and includes data from 2008-2011 for comparison. Germany came third in the top 100 countries for scientific research outputs in 2012 behind the United States and the UK.

Max Planck Society, comprising 5,400 researchers and 4,800 visiting scientists spread across 80 member institutes, was ranked the number three scientific institution in the world in 2012, behind only Harvard and Stanford universities. It ranked second in the world in earth and environmental sciences, third in physical sciences and chemistry, and fourth in life sciences.

The Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, the country's largest scientific organisation, also ranked highly in 19th position. It most prominently reached 10th in the world in Earth sciences. Six other German institutions (including four universities) also appear in the Global Top 100 in 2012 – bettered only by the United States.

Regionally, the strength of Munich's two elite universities (Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich and Technical University Munich) contributes to the Bavarian capital's reputation for scientific research, further boosted by the presence of the headquarters of the Max Planck Society.

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