



Press information

## **BMBF RUBIN – Alliance Field Swarm® Ecosystem starts in Saxony**

- Technology platform for agricultural technology of the future
- Autonomous agricultural machines and agricultural robots in a swarm network

Zeulenroda/Proschwitz Castle, July 3, 2023

The official project launch of the RUBIN – Alliance Field Swarm® Ecosystem was announced on occasion of a ceremonial kick-off event during the simul+-Forum „Autonomous Mobile Working Machines“ at Proschwitz Castle, Meissen.

For the first time, the Field Swarm® ecosystem will enable the autonomized and simultaneous operation of several agricultural machines, as well as modern agricultural robots. The focus is on the operators, who can monitor and intervene in the work process in the field at any time.

Over the next three years, 13 project partners in industry and research will develop a comprehensive hardware and IT control architecture for this purpose, integrating innovative systems for the semi-autonomous control of several agricultural machines as well as for remote or process monitoring. They are also researching new technologies and processes for artificial intelligence, remote and process monitoring, and data security for trouble-free operation. The innovative control systems will be integrated in traditional agricultural machinery, as well as in novel agricultural robots in a manufacturer-independent manner and will be tested in joint operation for effectiveness and economic efficiency in field operation.

Alliance spokesman Thomas Damme, managing partner of LACOS, emphasizes the special importance of the project for the agricultural technology and region of the alliance partners:

„The top-class alliance consortium consists of leading experts among others in automation technology, artificial intelligence, as well as agricultural machinery constructions and has already been working together very successfully for years in some cases. With the Field Swarm® ecosystem, we want to use the given location advantages of the skilled workforce, as well as semiconductor and sensor technology, to create a sustainable competitive advantage in Saxony and beyond.“

Based on a unique innovation base,

### **About RUBIN – Alliance Field Swarm® Ecosystem**

Since 2021, the Field Swarm® Ecosystem alliance has consisted of the research partners: Fraunhofer Institute for Transportation and Infrastructure Systems, Fraunhofer Institute for

Machine Tools and Forming Technology, Dresden University of Technology - Chair of Agricultural Systems Engineering, Dresden University of Technology - Chair of Technical Design and the University of Leipzig - Institute of Business Informatics as well as the **Industrial partners:** BITSz electronics GmbH, Eidam Landtechnik GmbH, Estino GmbH, Hydrive Engineering GmbH, Indikar Individual Karosseriebau GmbH, Lacos Computerservice GmbH, Lemken GmbH & Co. KG and Reichhardt GmbH Steuerungstechnik.

With the RUBIN funding program, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research supports and improves strategic cooperation between companies, as well as universities and research institutions. In particular, regional entrepreneurial alliances develop innovations with high application potential.

The Field Swarm® Ecosystem project is currently considered one of the most important projects in agricultural technology for securing the world's food supply in the future and is being funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research at a total cost of €15 million with a share of 70%.

**Press contact:**

Dr. Thomas Pohlmann

+49 173 3924356

thomas.pohlmann@reichhardt.com