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project of its kind in Europe. The project's aims are to identify the location where the contaminant has entered the water supply system, to identify the contaminant, and to find the best way to decontaminate the system. For example, if anthrax spores have come into contact with the water, we must not allow them to get into the atmosphere, where people could inhale them. In completing the project, students use mathematics, modeling and analytical methods that can rapidly identify microorganisms, radioactive substances and chemicals. We've built a large model pilot system that mimics a real urban water supply system. It contains pipes, pumps and water reservoirs. We introduce surrogate bacteria that act similarly to real ones, but without the toxic genes. And then we try to flush them out of the system. We're at the point where we've discovered a method that works very effectively; now we just need to try it out in an abandoned water supply system – just like in a James Bond-like plot. Very little is being done in this field in the rest of Europe, so there's a lot of expectation being put on this project. If a crisis situation arises, we'll be one of 12 partners from 6 countries who would be called upon to solve the problem."

Riga Technical University has big plans for development. According to Rector Leonids Ribickis, RTU will be the first university in Latvia with a modern campus located in Kipsala. Its modern infrastructure will allow to attract more international students.

Dr. Igors Tipans, Deputy Rector for International Academic Cooperation and Studies: „International study programmes in English at RTU have been offered for more than 20 years. As it was in early days of Riga Polytechnic, after graduation students get engineering jobs all over the world, now including such far away places from Latvia as China, India, Nigeria and Uzbekistan. This year RTU will start the international programme in Logistics and supply chain management which involves student mobility from Barcelona to Riga and then to Wildau in Germany or Leoben in Austria. In this case according to EU cooperation in education space each school will offer its best contribution to the programme. In cooperation with EU partners RTU is very active in developing engineering programmes in Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

As for international degree or exchange students from RTU partner universities in Europe and Asia, the number is steadily rising, and RTU website for international students [www.rtuas.lv](http://www.rtuas.lv) can be found in all major study portals within Europe".

Developments and scientific projects have boosted RTU's international recognition. Professor Juhna explains: "Sometimes people don't know which country I come from, but they have heard of RTU." Commenting on the international study programs, Dr. Igors Tipans says with certainty: "We are too big for just Latvia." **BO**

## Riga Technical University pioneering in research of water security problems

In autumn 2012, Riga Technical University will be celebrating its 150-year anniversary. Since its foundation RTU (initially Riga Polytechnic) has been international institution, and many distinguished scientists – such as Nobel prize winners in chemistry Wilhelm Ostwald, Svante Arrhenius, pioneer of Russian space program Friedrich Zander, one of the most cited scientists in chemistry Paul Walden, genius of bridge statics and aesthetics Wilhelm Ritter studied or worked there. Among RTU graduates there are presidents, prime-ministers of several countries. RTU graduates work in all continents.

Over the years, this institution of higher learning may have had to change its name and location, but one thing has remained unchanged – this is a place where big things happen.

In Europe, RTU is known for its many interesting projects and scientific research work. For instance, Professor Tālis Juhna has been working on the project „Security and decontamination of drinking water distribution systems following a deliberate contamination“, which is in its third year already. As the professor describes, "The project involves RTU's young scientists, as well as master and doctoral students, who are all researching what should be done if a city's drinking water supply should be suddenly contaminated by harmful substances. This is the largest

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