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## RTU – the Basis for Efficient Development of Latvia

The roots of Riga Technical University can be found in Riga Polytechnical Institute. This Institute started its activities on October 14, 1862, as the first multi-branch technical higher education institution of the Russian Empire, in which the present territory of Latvia at that time was included. More than 30 years the study language there was German and this was the reason why many famous professors and lecturers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland worked in this Institute. They introduced modern world-class experience in teaching and scientific research, especially in engineering sciences and chemistry. Professor Wilhelm Ostwald, who was born in Riga, the founder of physical chemistry and Nobel Prize winner, Professor Pauls Waldens who made significant research in organic chemistry and electro-chemistry, and many other academics have made the name of Riga Polytechnical Institute well-known all over Europe.

Riga Polytechnical Institute, in fact, served as a broad basis for the development of technical intelligence, thus at the beginning of the 20th century Riga became an important industrial centre of Europe. After gaining the independence in 1918 the Higher School of Latvia was created on the basis of RPI. Later this school got the famous name of the University of Latvia.

Now Riga Technical University is the second largest state founded university in Latvia. It provides internationally highly evaluated, accredited bachelor, master and doctoral study programs in almost all engineering fields, architecture, information technology, business management, art and engineering design. At present, there are 17 000 students studying in 8 faculties of the RTU: Architecture and Urban Planning, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology, Electronics and Telecommunications, Power Engineering and Electrical Engineering, Materials Science and Applied Chemistry, Transport and Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Economics and Management. There are also three branches of RTU outside Riga – in Liepaja, Daugavpils and Ventspils, and some other units of RTU: the public agency of RTU – “Institute of Inorganic Chemistry”, Institute of Languages, Institute of Humanities, Department of Foreign Students and

RTU Riga Business School. We have well developed cooperation with more than 170 universities in more than 30 countries. It also gives wide possibilities for foreign students to study in RTU in English.

The basic priorities of RTU are engineering sciences, natural sciences, environmental sciences and some fields of social sciences. The scientific research is carried out at international, state level and local level programs, ensuring the development of technology transfer and innovations. The research activities are deeply integrated into the study process, which helps to develop new generation of scientists.

The Latvian Academy of Sciences has included three research projects of RTU in the list of 10 most important scientific results of 2009: Technology for obtaining the new porous high-temperature ceramic oxide, which can be applied for filtration of very aggressive and very hot fluids; Automatic electro-technical equipment for evaluation of asynchronous behavior of power energy systems, application of which significantly diminish the possibilities of high scale accidents in these systems; Technology for obtaining of new thermo-isolation material from layered silicates and side products of biodiesel fuel.

RTU strategy during 148 years of its activities has been embodied in the slogan of the university: “To know. To be able. To create”. Creation of new personalities and new scientific results is a significant step into the future.

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