

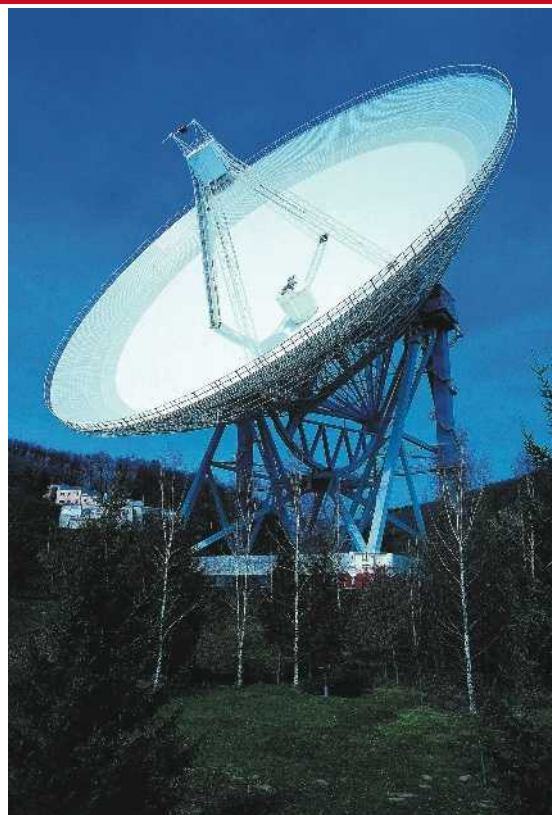
# Research in Germany

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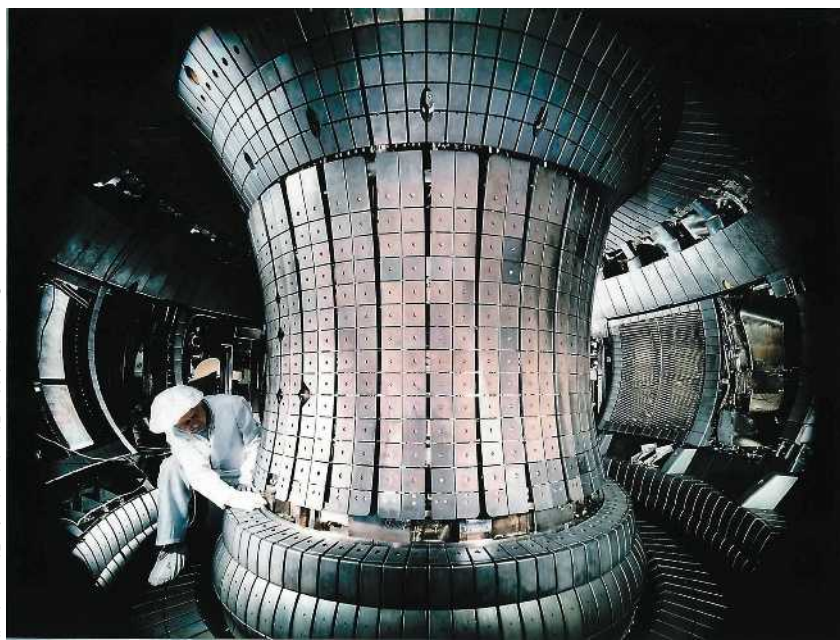
Two new German Nobel Prizes have put research right back on the map in Germany. But Peter Grünberg's basic research on the phenomena of giant magnetoresistance and Gerhard Ertl's basic research in surface chemistry are not the only achievements German research has to boast about – in the last 20 years, German science has harvested no less than 18 Nobel Prizes. This puts Germany in third place behind the USA and Great Britain. Altogether, 28 Germans have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, 24 in Physics and 15 in Medicine or Physiology.

This is no coincidence. After all, there is a long tradition of outstanding research in Germany, starting with Johannes Gutenberg's printing press, via Carl Friedrich Benz' automobile and Einstein's theory of relativity, right up to Karlheinz Brandenburg's MP3 format. And German researchers were also responsible for the invention of the refrigerator, neon lighting, trams, gliders as well as huge-capacity hard discs. These researchers all found the right environment for their work in Germany. From the outside, the German research landscape may appear impenetrable, but when you look more closely it isn't at all. Rather, it is an intriguing landscape with multifaceted regions. Germany has a strong and highly differentiated science system. This system is divided into three: besides more than 100 research universities, research is carried out by four high-performance science organisations (Fraunhofer Society, Max Planck Society, Helmholtz Association, Leibniz Association), other state and private research establishments, as well as approximately 260 specialised colleges and universities of applied science. Altogether, there are roughly 750 state financed research establishments in Germany, not to mention the research and development taking place in industry. Germany is the third largest "researchers' country" in the world – a total of more than 270,000 scientists work here.

Traditionally, German research has been particularly strong in the fields of mechanical engineering, chemistry, medicine, physics and mathematics. And certain humanities disciplines also play a leading role. Both in biomedicine and medical technology as well as in the fields of environmental, automotive and engineering science German researchers and research institutes are right at the forefront worldwide. But that's not all: in future-oriented fields such as optical technology, microsystems technology, neuroscience, biotechnology and process technology



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