



Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach

15 May 2007

Press Release

One of the world's best mathematical libraries has been extended

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, the dedication ceremony of the enlargement of the library building took place at the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach (MFO). The extension has been financed by both the Klaus Tschira Stiftung gGmbH and the VolkswagenStiftung on equal parts with 408,000 Euro, and by the Oberwolfach Stiftung and the Förderverein with 84,000 Euro.

The Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach (MFO) is one of the most internationally renowned institutions of its kind, taking on a leading position in its field despite the growing competition. Every year, it is visited by about 2.500 mathematicians from all over the world for conferences and research studies. Among researchers it is known worldwide as an institution setting standards by its internationally highly estimated workshop- and research program.

This is also due to its excellent library which offers ideal working conditions. Especially the library, which is one of the best of its kind, serves as the main work tool for a mathematician doing research, functioning as "laboratory" and archive at the same time. It is therefore the quality of the library in selection and completeness which guarantees Oberwolfach a leading position among its competitors.

To ensure that the working conditions for the mathematicians are not facing any limits in the future, both, the **Klaus Tschira Stiftung gGmbH** and the **VolkswagenStiftung**, allocated the sum of **408.000 Euro** each (in total 816.000 Euro) to the Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach (MFO) for the extension of the library building. The necessary purchase of additional area around the institute has been financed by the **Oberwolfach Stiftung** and the **Förderverein** with the additional sum of **84.000 Euro**, the larger part of this sum coming from the donation of Ms Rosemary Lonergan in honor of the mathematician John Todd.

The library extension does not only meet the demand for more space for the print editions - those playing an important role in a research library - but, by setting up an additional server room and new computer work places, also improves the accessibility of research literature that is available only electronically.

The **Klaus Tschira Stiftung (KTS)** supports research projects, student projects and universitarian teaching in the sciences, in mathematics and applied informatics. The library of the MFO has been sponsored by the KTS already in the year 2000.

The **VolkswagenStiftung** actively supports the MFO since the middle of the 1960's. For instance, the library building and the guest building have been erected in 1975 with the financial help of the VolkswagenStiftung. The financial support that the MFO received over the last 40 years by the VolkswagenStiftung sums up to about 7 million Euro and were used to realize renovation and extension measures and to sponsor the research programm "Research in Pairs", the project "Förderung der Zusammenarbeit zwischen Wissenschaftlern der Gemeinschaft unabhängiger Staaten (GUS) und der Bundesrepublik Deutschland auf ausgewählten Gebieten der Mathematik" (support for collaborations between East-European and German researchers) and the research initiative "Symposiums und Sommerschulen" (Symposiums and summer schools).

The **Oberwolfach Stiftung** (Oberwolfach Foundation) provides financial support from the private and economic sector. Due to the assistance of a number of renowned companies the Oberwolfach Stiftung administers these days a funding capital of about 1.2 million Euro. The **Förderverein** receives financial contributions on a regular basis from more than 700 mathematicians and other supporters. Together they support the MFO with 60,000 Euro per annum, and due to their flexible co-financing, they have been able to realise many projects at the MFO even in financially difficult times.