FOCUS OF RESEARCH
Inter-firm networks are a traditional and yet modern organisational form. In practice they appear as strategic alliances, regional and global networks, joint ventures, value-adding partnerships, and consortia. The Research Group is involved in theoretical and empirical research on inter-firm networks. The focus of theoretical research is to develop a theory of inter-firm network formation based upon the structuration theory of Anthony Giddens and which informs management practice as much as empirical research. Empirical research is oriented on the genesis and management of inter-firm networks, aiming to study their importance for economic performance and technology development.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
Recent research activities focus on building a managerial concept of "reflective network development", which relates the strategic conduct of firms in networks to the specific conditions of organisational fields, such as regions and industries. Special attention is paid to the impact of historical and institutional contexts, for example on the development of organisational and technological paths. At the moment, this concept is being elaborated for the fields of the media industry and optical technologies.

MEMBERS OF THE RESEARCH GROUP
Dr. Oliver Benthrt (FU)
Dr. Leonhard Dobusch (FU)
Prof. Dr. Stephan Duschatel (associated)
Prof. Dr. Markus Hepp (HBS)
Prof. Dr. Knut Lange (associated)
Prof. Dr. Frank Larch (associated)
Prof. Dr. Stephan Mannig (associated)
Prof. Dr. Miiko Wikman (associated)
Dr. Gusto Möller (associated)

EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS SINCE 2007 (other, sees website)
P. 33: How do project networks arise and develop? – Comparative case studies

Various economic sectors are facing an increasing concern on issues related to temporariness. In particular, projects outside the firm are crucial for the modern organisation context. This is particularly true for so-called project networks. This study examines two cases related to how individual behaviour influence the origination and development of such networks. Special attention is devoted to cooperative behaviours which are described by the concept of "Project Citizen Behavior" and "Network Citizenship Behavior". The two project networks will be analyzed for a duration of approximately 1.5 years. In the course of this, qualitative research methods such as participatory observations and guideline-based interviews will be applied.

Commissioned by: GPM Deutsche Gesellschaft für Projektmanagement e.V.
Period: 12/10 - 05/11
Award Holder: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow
Researcher: Dipl.-Kfm. Timo Braun

P28: "Strategic Leadership in Heterarchical Networks"
In contrast to other types of interorganizational networks, heterarchical networks are characterized by the lack of a permanent formal leading entity which orchestrates the respective network. Based upon an in-depth case study that is informed by structuration theory this project elucidates how leadership is nevertheless practiced in heterarchical networks. Our research setting is the semiconductor industry’s prime research and development consortium SEMATECH, and the strategic leadership of its innovation management in sometimes unique regional clusters (for a publication of VDI/VDE-IT in German).

Commissioned by: GPM Deutsche Gesellschaft für Projektmanagement e.V.
Period: 02/10 - 01/11
Award Holder: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow
Researcher: Dipl.-Kfm. Timo Braun

P27: "Application Laboratory, Innovative X-ray Technologies"
Within this project we are conducting an analysis of current transfer practices in the semiconductor industry's prime research and development consortium SEMATECH, and the strategic leadership of its innovation management in sometimes unique regional clusters (for a publication of VDI/VDE-IT in German).

Commissioned by: GPM Deutsche Gesellschaft für Projektmanagement e.V.
Period: 02/10 - 01/11
Award Holder: Dr. Gordon Müller-Seitz
Mentor: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow

P26: "Evaluation of the Cluster Development of the Music and Event Industry of the Cologne Region – Sound of Cologne"
In the framework of this project, an evaluation concept for the development of the music and event industry cluster in and around Cologne is being developed and applied. The analysis is based upon a comprehensive inventory of the organizations involved in the cluster, an intermediate evaluation of the cluster activities and an assessment of the coordinated cluster development.

Commissioned by: Konzernsanierungsfonds für Unternehmen mbH
Period: 05/2009 – 03/2012
Award Holder: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow
Researcher: Dr. Elke Schükler

P25: "Network Services"
Within this project two articles on the role of network services for the development of regional clusters (for a publication of VDI/VDE-IT in German) were written.

Commissioned by: VDI/VDE-IT GmbH
Period: 07/2008 – 06/2008
Award Holder: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow
Researcher: Dipl.-Kfm. Rainer Zeichhardt

The purpose of the research is to increase our understanding of International Framework Agreements (IFAs) negotiated by transnational corporations (TNCs) and Global Labour Unions (GLUs). The project focuses on regulating labor standards and employment relations within TNCS and throughout their global supply networks. The research program is based on in-depth case studies and will focus on the questions of motivation and of implementation of IFAs.

Commissioned by: Hans-Böckler-Stiftung (HBS)
Period: 05/2007 – 06/2010
Award Holder: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow, Dr. Michael Fichter
Researcher: Dr. Markus Hepp
Partner: Prof. Steve Finkel, Australian School of Business, University of New South Wales, Sydney

P23: "Initiating and Establishing the Development of Technology in Value Chain Partnerships of SMEs in the German Automotive and Automotive Supplier Industry, the Development of Innovations in the Tension between Cooperation and Competition (NetMan)"
The project has the purpose of increasing the potential for innovations of SMEs in value chain partnerships in the automotive and automotive supplier industry, of surveying the main obstacles and barriers to integrating SMEs into value chain partnerships in this industry, and of developing practice-based network tools. The platform of analyzing and developing tools is the "Network of Automotive Excellence" (NoAE).

Commissioned by: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)
Period: 02/2008 – 01/2011
Award Holder: Prof. Dr. Jörg Sydow
Researcher: Dr. Stephan Duschatel
Partner: Technologie Management Grupe (TMG) Stuttgart

PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH
A. Books and Special Issues

B. Journal Articles