

IEEE Life Members Affinity Group Germany

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Tech Meeting minutes

The LMAG Germany technical meeting took place on Tuesday, 07 July 2026 as a virtual meeting. It was conducted by Michael Wahl as the chair and Max Riegel as secretary.

Attendance roster: Michael Wahl (Chair), Clemens Ruppel (Treasurer), Max Riegel (Secretary), Robert Weigel, Achim Dreher, Axel Gaeser, Bernd Neubig, Christel Zirwas-Hoffmann, Christof Pfannenmüller, Damian Dudek, Erik Jacobson, Erik Maehle, Fabian Lurz, Gerhard Filip, Jasmin Gabsteiger, Jochen Kaepfel, Johannes Huber, Karl Herrmann, Manfred Berroth, Markus Gardill, Rüdiger Hoffmann, Uwe Haass, Viktor Manske, Werner Mohr, Wolf Nagl, Wolf Stehwien

1 Call to order

The chair called the meeting to order on 07 July 2026 at 17:15 CET.

2 Agenda

The chair presented the proposed agenda.

- Call to order
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Technical presentation
- Questions, answers, and discussions
- Next meeting
- AOB

Agenda accepted without comments.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

The chair presented the minutes of the last technical meeting on May 5th. Not any comments were raised.

4 Technical presentation

The chair welcomed the presenter of today's meeting, Prof. Robert Weigel, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg providing a presentation on "Burg Feuerstein und Schloss Pretzfeld: High Tech in der Fränkischen Schweiz im und nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg".

The presentation showed that remarkable research and innovation were performed at two nearby locations in rural Franconian Switzerland around Ebermannstadt in northern Bavaria.

Oskar Vierling established during WWII in a newly build castle a research institute with up to 250 employees developing and delivering novel solutions for the German army during the war. Nobody in the area knew about these activities, and even the allies only discovered the research institute after the war. Oscar Vierling transferred much of the knowledge into the hands of the allies and sold the castle to the catholic church. A view years later, he founded an electronics company in Ebermannstadt and continued inventing novel solutions.

Only a few kilometres away from the castle, the highly renowned semiconductor researcher Walter Schottky laid the foundation for the progress of the silicon technologies. His former

assistant Eberhard Spenke established at the castle of Pretzfeld a laboratory of Siemens completely focusing on making silicon usable for power electronics. Within a few years they invented methods to produce extremely pure silicon as required for the realisation of semiconductors.

Burg Feuerstein und Schloss Pretzfeld:
High Tech in der Fränkischen Schweiz im und nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg

Robert Weigel
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (FAU)

LMAG Germany, Video, 7. Juli 2026

Participants: [M] Max Rieg, Wahl, Michael Dr., Robert W., Damian Dudek VDE ITG, Johannes Huber..., Axel C.

5 Questions, answers, and discussions

Questions came up regarding the initial source of the 'Tiegelfreies Zonenziehen' (floating-zone technique). The procedure was invented by Jan Czochralski, but the researchers in Pretzfeld enhanced the procedure to make it really usable for industrial production.

The research institute of Oskar Vierling had up to 250 employees, with hardly any information available where these employees stayed in the countryside around Ebermannstadt.

6 AOB

An participant asked about the source of a small device that was formerly used as detector in radio receivers. He got an answer explaining that the device was built with Germanium and required some tricky manipulation to realise the rectifier behaviour of the detector.

7 Next meeting

There won't be a technical meeting on September 1st. The next LMAG Germany technical meeting will take place at the F2F meeting on October 8th/9th in Siegen. The final program of the F2F meeting will be distributed to all German life members within a few weeks together with a link to register for the meeting. The chair encouraged all German life members to come to Siegen and participate in the F2F meeting in October.

8 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 18:00 CET.

Participation:

