Dr. Simone Rehm

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

I am an experienced University executive with a strong background in Information Technology. As Vice Rector for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO), I am a full-time member of the Rectorate of the University of Stuttgart, where I focus on promoting digitalisation across research, teaching, and administration. I oversee two central units - the Information Technology Center and the University Library - and hold policy authority for IT and library infrastructures across the University. My work is characterized by my commitment to promoting open science, fostering collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and creating societal value through knowledge.

I fully support CESAER's vision for 2030, to lead transformation across science, technology and society. As a candidate to the Board of Directors, I will actively contribute to realising this vision. A strong advocate of open science and a trusted mediator at the frontiers of openness, I am committed to creating the right conditions for a balance between transparency, collaboration and responsibility at the European level. Openness in science can only be achieved if universities remain economically and infrastructurally independent and have complete freedom to decide where and how their data is stored. That is why I consider digital sovereignty a key priority to be placed firmly on our agenda as well. Should I be elected, Christian Gerhardts (TU Dresden) will assume the Observer role. Having already served as a Observer for a departing member, he brings both experience and continuity to this position.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany
01/2016 – today

- Vice Rector for Information Technology / Chief Information Officer
- led institution-wide digital transformation by implementing key systems that support teaching, research, and administrative functions
- modernized core university processes through scalable IT solutions, enhancing service delivery and data-driven decision-making
- strengthened open access publishing workflows, significantly increasing the number of university-affiliated open access publications
- established university-wide Competence Center for Research Data Management to support researchers in handling, storing, and sharing research data in compliance with legal and funder requirements
- developed the university's midterm digital strategy through a participatory process involving key stakeholders
- introduced IT governance structures to align decentralized IT initiatives with the overall digital strategy
- laid the foundation for a trustworthy, all-purpose AI tool for the entire university, launching soon

TRUMPF GmbH, Ditzingen, Germany
11/2001 – 12/2015

- Head of Corporate IT / Chief Information Officer
- held global strategic and operational responsibility for IT in a multinational mechanical engineering company (€1-2 billion revenue), overseeing a team of 100 employees and managing an annual budget of €25 million
- aligned IT strategy and operations with evolving corporate objectives, ensuring technology initiatives that directly support business growth and efficiency
- established a company-wide IT project portfolio management system, improving transparency and prioritization, and operational value of digital investments
- directed the global standardization and rollout of SAP, enabling consistent processes and data integration across international sites

TRUMPF Medizin Systeme, Puchheim, Germany (Internal Secondment)
11/2005 – 11/2007

- Interim Managing Director of a subsidiary of TRUMPF's medical divison
- assumed full executive responsibility for a manufacturing and sales subsidiary (€30M revenue, 120 employees) alongside corporate IT leadership duties

- oversaw daily operations, finance, sales, and production, ensuring business continuity and strategic alignment within the group
- stabilized performance during a transitional phase, strengthened customer relationships, and improved collaboration across departments

Südwestrundfunk (successor organization as result of a merger), Stuttgart, Germany
09/1997 – 10/2001

Südwestfunk, Baden-Baden, Germany
08/1996 – 08/1997

- Head of Corporate IT
- held strategic and operational responsibility for the IT of a public broadcasting company, overseeing a team of 100 employees at two sites and managing an annual budget of €20 million
- led the integration of two IT departments following the merger of two public broadcasting institutions (Süddeutscher Rundfunk and Südwestfunk), building a unified, high-performing IT organization
- successfully consolidated systems, teams, and processes within a short time frame, ensuring operational continuity and cultural alignment
- established a modern, reliable, and standardized IT infrastructure to support broadcasting, production, and administrative functions across the new entity

F. Hofmann-La Roche AG, Basel, Switzerland
01/1995 – 06/1996

- Project Manager
- led high-impact international regulatory submission project for a new drug approval in the U.S., coordinating cross-functional teams across regions
- spent three months on assignment at the company's U.S. headquarters and prepared a complete electronic submission to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) ensuring alignment with FDA requirements and internal stakeholders
- successfully delivered the electronic submission to the FDA on time, accelerating time-to-market for the product

Ciba-Geigy GmbH, Wehr, Germany
01/1993 – 12/1994

- Database Developer
- developed and maintained IT solutions for the Regulatory Affairs Department, supporting the preparation and management of drug approval documentation
- designed database structures and optimized data workflows to ensure compliance, accuracy, and efficiency in regulatory submissions

Forschungszentrum Informatik, Karlsruhe, Germany
01/1986 – 12/1992

- Research Associate
- conducted research and contributed to academic projects in the field of integrating database systems and programming languages
- co-developed database system from scratch and integrated it into a software production environment

EDUCATION

PhD in Computer Science – University of Karlsruhe, Germany, 1992

Dissertation: *Komplexe Objekte und Anfragen in der Programmierung (Complex Objects and Queries in Programming)*
Published as a monograph by Deutscher Universitätsverlag, ISBN 978-3-8244-2040-7

Diploma in Computer Science (equivalent to MSc) – University of Stuttgart, Germany, 1986

GOVERNANCE AND ADVISORY ROLES

Since 2025	Strategy Advisory Board for Information and Communication Technology of the Fraunhofer Society
Since 2024	Supervisory Board of Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz Center for Informatics
Since 2022	Technical Expert Committee of Base4NFDI, a consortium within NFDI (Co-Chair)
Since 2021	Advisory Board CAMPUSonline (Chair)
Since 2021	**CESAER's Task Force Open Science, later renamed to Openness in Science and Technology (Co-Chair)**
Since 2019	IT Advisory Board of the Foundation for University Admissions
2015 – 2019	German Council for Scientific Information Infrastructures (RfII)
Since 2018	University Council of the FernUniversität Hagen
Since 2017	Scientific Advisory Board of the Bonn-Aachen International Center for Information technology
Since 1998	Board of Trustees of the Forschungszentrum Informatik in Karlsruhe