The **DFG Cluster of Excellence TransforM** is inviting applications for up to

1-2 postdoctoral/doctoral positions in the team developing the Startup-Industrial-Exchange Hub for the Cluster of Excellence TransforM at Technical University Munich (TUM) (f/m/d)

TV-L E13| Full-time or Part-Time | start date as soon as possible
Fixed-term appointment up to three years, with the possibility of extension
Employment at Technical University of Munich (TUM)

What are we looking for?

We plan to hire up to two doctoral or postdoctoral researchers to help develop and run the 'Startup-Industrial-Exchange Hub (SIX)', a research infrastructure of *TransforM: Munich Center for Transformative Technologies and Societal Change* (www.transform-cluster.de).

As a Cluster of Excellence funded by the German Research Foundation DFG, *TransforM's* goal is to better understand why, when, and how technologies become socially transformative, and to critically assess and inform transformation pathways 'all the way through' – from the early stages of their emergence to their wider socio-economic impact.

As one element in an ambitious research infrastructure, *TransforM* will set up SIX. SIX is TransforM's bi-directional interface with the Munich innovation ecosystem. SIX will be closely connected to the TUM Entrepreneurship Research Institute and UnternehmerTUM, the Center for Innovation and Business Creation at TUM. Researchers working within SIX will be in close contact to UnternehmerTUM's Rise Europe initiative (www.rise-europe.com). Rise Europe is a network of 20 leading entrepreneurship hubs across 14 countries, dedicated to strengthening Europe as a global innovation powerhouse. SIX also leverages further existing individual and institutional ties, including the TUM Venture Labs, the local governmental networking platform Bayern Innovativ, and leading innovation initiatives like the Munich Cluster for the Future of Mobility in Metropolitan Regions (MCube). We also maintain strong connections to leading tech companies (such as BMW, Siemens, Allianz, MVG, Kuka, and Google) and startups.

We are not looking to fill these positions with people to match existing profiles. These are positions for creative and ambitious people interested in working in a team to develop and run their own projects, while building a public research infrastructure in collaboration with TransforM as a whole. There is plenty of space for new and good ideas!

SIX will likely cover the following dimensions:

- **a link to the real-world problems of individuals and organizations**, which can inform TransforM's research at the level of research questions and data (e.g., company-related datasets, with which some TransforM PIs have experience already). Rise Europe creates a strong link to startups and scaleups across Europe. Additionally, SIX can connect with company-internal technology scouting units, policy lobbyists, and mid-level managers/business developers to gain insight into technology sensing and evaluation processes.

- **a platform to study the transformation of a leading European innovation ecosystem in real time**, focusing on new transformative technologies. SIX also addresses questions of cultural embedding of innovation, exploring how the Munich innovation ecosystem operates differently from well-known innovation hubs like Silicon Valley or Singapore.
- **a channel for TransforM research findings to inform the strategies of startups, companies, and other actors** on the social, political, ethical, and economic challenges of transformative technologies. This provides another real-world, quasi-real-time testing ground for the relevance of the research insights produced by the cluster. In the medium term, we envision developing a range of services from these interactions.

We are looking to put together a creative and enthusiastic team. Candidates should reflect

- good German and English language capabilities;
- strong backgrounds in management or economics or related disciplines;
- methodological and conceptual proficiencies;
- interest in teaching and working with corporate organizations as well as entrepreneurship hubs;
- networking skills;
- interest (and potentially expertise) in different technological and political (esp. EU) domains.

What do we have to offer?

TransforM aims to become one of Europe's foremost centres for social science research on transformative technologies. TransforM is hosted by TUM, Europe's highest ranked university. Academic research at SIX will also be closely connected with the TUM Entrepreneurship Research Institute, one of the world's leading organizations for research on entrepreneurship and innovation and part of the TUM School of Management, Germany's #1 school in business research. Further, SIX will be developed conjointly with UnternehmerTUM, Europe's top ranked tech incubator (Financial Times, 2024).

We thus offer an extremely vibrant and well-resourced research and teaching environment. TransforM comprises 25 principal investigators from across the social sciences and humanities. It is a highly inter- and transdisciplinary environment presenting tremendous opportunities for ambitious early- and mid-career researchers to move their ideas forward in Germany, in Europe, and worldwide.

Pay grades can vary from 50% to 100% E13. Contracts will typically last for 3 years in the first instance. TransforM is funded for seven years initially. Details are negotiable and depend very much on the person and what they will bring to TransforM.

About TransforM, UnternehmerTUM, and Rise Europe

TransforM is closely connected to the TUM School of Management and the TUM Entrepreneurship Research Institute, which are dedicated to understanding the managerial and economic dimensions of science and technology. Embedded in TUM's unique entrepreneurial ecosystem, we are committed to society-centred innovation, i.e. enabling a more responsible and sustainable engagement with science and innovation through social science research, teaching and public dialogue – often in collaboration with partners from technical fields.

UnternehmerTUM is Europe's leading centre for innovation and business creation. Closely connected to TUM, it combines entrepreneurship education, cutting-edge research, and hands-on venture support within one integrated ecosystem. By bringing together startups, corporates, investors, and public

partners, it fosters technology-driven innovation and scalable business models. Embedded in TUM's entrepreneurial environment, UnternehmerTUM supports founders and innovators along the entire value chain – from initial idea to market leadership. Through its strong network, infrastructure, and access to capital, it enables high-impact ventures and contributes to strengthening Europe's innovation and competitiveness on a global scale.

Rise Europe, an initiative of UTUM, is a network of 20 leading entrepreneurship hubs from 14 countries, dedicated to strengthening Europe as a global innovation powerhouse and working closely with the European Commission to achieve this goal. Its strategic focus areas include exits (IPOs and mergers), public procurement as a growth lever, and the mobilization of private and institutional capital.

If you have any questions, please contact: patzelt@tum.de

How to apply?

Please send your application in a single pdf document (surname_six.pdf) containing (1) a cover letter (max. 1 page), (2) a one-pager with your idea(s) for SIX and (3) an informative CV of less than three pages, including – if applicable – a list of your three most generative publications (not the publications themselves) to transform-cluster@sot.tum.de.

Deadline: latest 15th of March 2026, but we review applications and start to speak to suitable candidates immediately to begin to shape a team.

TUM is committed to increasing the proportion of women in its academic workforce and explicitly encourages applications from qualified women. The position is suitable for disabled persons. Disabled applicants will be given preference in case of generally equivalent suitability, aptitude and professional performance.

Note on data protection: As part of your application, you provide personal data to be processed at Technical University of Munich (TUM). Please note our data protection information in accordance with Art. 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the collection and processing of personal data in the context of your application. By submitting your application, you confirm that you have taken note of TUM's data protection information.