Top tier U.S. education meets top European tech to shape the future of industry.

**Purdue, Rittal + Eplan announce strategic partnership for smart manufacturing, engineering education**

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**Purdue University and Rittal and Eplan, sister companies and global leaders in industrial and electrical engineering solutions and automation, have announced a major strategic partnership. The five-year collaboration centers around the Purdue Polytechnic Institute and was officially sealed at the Rockwell Automation Fair in Chicago in November. The partnership will see Purdue join the Rittal + Eplan Partner Network as a research partner with a focus on design of advancing smart manufacturing education and preparing students for the next industrial revolution.**

Purdue will open two dedicated labs on its campus: an Eplan Electrical Engineering Technology Projects Lab and a Rittal Automation Systems Lab, where students can conduct studies and gain practical experience in data-driven processes in plant engineering, wire assembly, and wiring. The collaboration will provide Purdue students and faculty with unparalleled access to an integrated ecosystem of hardware and software at the forefront of automation and fabrication sectors.

The comprehensive partnership also includes plans for scholarships, internships, and joint research and development initiatives, with potential engagement extending to the Purdue Polytechnic High School network. The cooperation will include a substantial number of Eplan software licenses for students as well as further investments by Rittal and Eplan.

“Purdue Polytechnic has always sought to prepare new generations for tech-driven industries, and this partnership is the perfect embodiment of that mission,” said Daniel Castro, Purdue Polytechnic dean. “By integrating world-class solutions from Rittal and Eplan into our curriculum, we are going beyond theory. Students will develop the hands-on skills and technological fluency needed to lead.”

The partnership has a mutually beneficial design. It will create a direct pipeline of skilled talent for industry while providing students with critical exposure to technologies used by leading companies everywhere. Purdue students will gain hands-on experience with the Eplan Platform for electrical engineering design and the related data-driven approach with automation systems and system enclosures from Rittal, ensuring that future leaders in these sectors are industry ready, day one.

For Rittal and Eplan, the partnership represents a significant investment in the future of the U.S. workforce and an opportunity to collaborate on innovative research. As part of the Friedhelm Loh Group, the companies have a long tradition of engaging with science and education in Europe and are excited to extend this model to the United States.

“Purdue Polytechnic’s tradition of preparing their students for immediate industry impact makes them the perfect match,” said Sebastian Seitz, CEO of Eplan. “Purdue will continue to build on its excellent reputation through cooperation with industrial top players, while Rittal and Eplan look forward to smart impulses from cutting-edge research and education. Purdue students will be the engineers who bring advanced concepts to the U.S. economy, applying their knowledge to drive the next wave of industrial innovation. We are proud to invest in the talent that will move the world forward.”

“The U.S. economy has a great opportunity for growth,” Seitz said. “A deep understanding of data-driven automation with high-quality data right from the start is the key to unlocking this growth especially in an era of skilled labor shortages. That domain knowledge forms the basis for the next level: real-life value creation with industrial AI. This partnership is about laying that foundation.”

The collaboration is already yielding tangible opportunities for students. Purdue students developed a capstone project that was presented last fall in the innovation area of the Rockwell Automation Fair. Rittal and Eplan sponsored the project and also invited more than 100 Purdue students to the internationally relevant event to provide them with invaluable networking opportunities with industry executives. Further strengthening the partnership, executives from Rittal and Eplan will join the Purdue Polytechnic Dean’s Advisory Council.

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| Ein Bild, das Person, Kleidung, Mann, Anzug enthält.  KI-generierte Inhalte können fehlerhaft sein. |  |  |
| Image Caption  Signing of the partnership agreement in Chicago:  (front row) Dr Daniel Castro (centre), Dean of Purdue Polytechnic, Sebastian Seitz (left), CEO of Eplan, and Jochen Trautmann (right), CEO Rittal Automation Systems. |  | . |

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**About Purdue Polytechnic**

Purdue Polytechnic is one of the ten academic colleges of Purdue University, offering a range of degree programs in technology-focused disciplines. With a focus on hands-on learning, industry partnerships and a curriculum designed for real-world application, the Polytechnic prepares graduates to be leaders and innovators who are industry ready, day one.

**About Rittal and Eplan**

Rittal is a leading global systems supplier for hardware, software and automation. Rittal solutions for industrial, IT, energy, power and cooling applications are used in over 90% of global industries. Eplan established one of the world’s leading design software solutions for machine and panel builders and supports customers with software and service solutions in the fields of electrical, automation and mechatronic engineering. Rittal and Eplan are pioneers in advancing AI in software and enabling the capable IT infrastructure. They are part of the owner-operated Friedhelm Loh Group which operates worldwide, with 13 production sites and 95 international subsidiaries. It has 12,600 employees and posted revenues of 3.1 billion euros in fiscal year 2024. In 2023, the Friedhelm Loh Group was presented with the “Best Place to Learn” and “Employer of the Future” awards. In 2025, Rittal was awarded the Top 100 Seal as one of Germany’s most innovative medium-sized companies for the fourth time in a row. The Rittal plant in Haiger achieved overall win in the “Factory of the Year” benchmark competition in 2025, confirming its status as one of the best factories in Europe.

For more information, visit [www.rittal.com](http://www.rittal.com/), [www.eplan.com](http://www.eplan.com) and [www.friedhelm-loh-group.com](http://www.friedhelm-loh-group.com).

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