From
Apple Rings
to Installation

production report by Lasse Halve

Normally, physicists are not the ones carrying out mass production: we build our prototypes and then delegate the hard work to others building the finalized hardware hundreds or thousands times. But with AIS³ things became different. Luckily, there are sour apple rings.

All basic components for the installation of AIS³ arrived at RWTH Aachen University in June and July. Hard plastic half-spheres, speakers, LED-strips, metal clamps and the microcontroller boards needed to be soldered, fastened and checked, and all this during the exceptional summer heat. An ever-growing team of students assembled 500 spheres, motivated by progress and, above all, sour apple rings.

Fixing spheres to steel cables and attaching them to the rig was carried out in a cooled hall in the city centre of Aachen.

Problems arose daily and solutions had to be found within a few hours: steel cables needed to be processed, USB ports did not work properly, a storage solution for the assembled strings needed to be found and built. Most of the speakers behaved as planned, but some of them freaked out as "parrots", revealing unintended colourful palettes. Everybody worked worked long hours — and frustration can only be tamed by sour apple rings.

Finally, the majority of the spheres are wired and attached to the rig to be lifted up to a height of six meters. For the first time, real data is (dis)played. This was a short climax, followed by disassembling the component parts and preparing them for shipping. A few days later, all the equipment was neatly packed into wooden crates and ready for shipping. All thanks to sour apple rings.
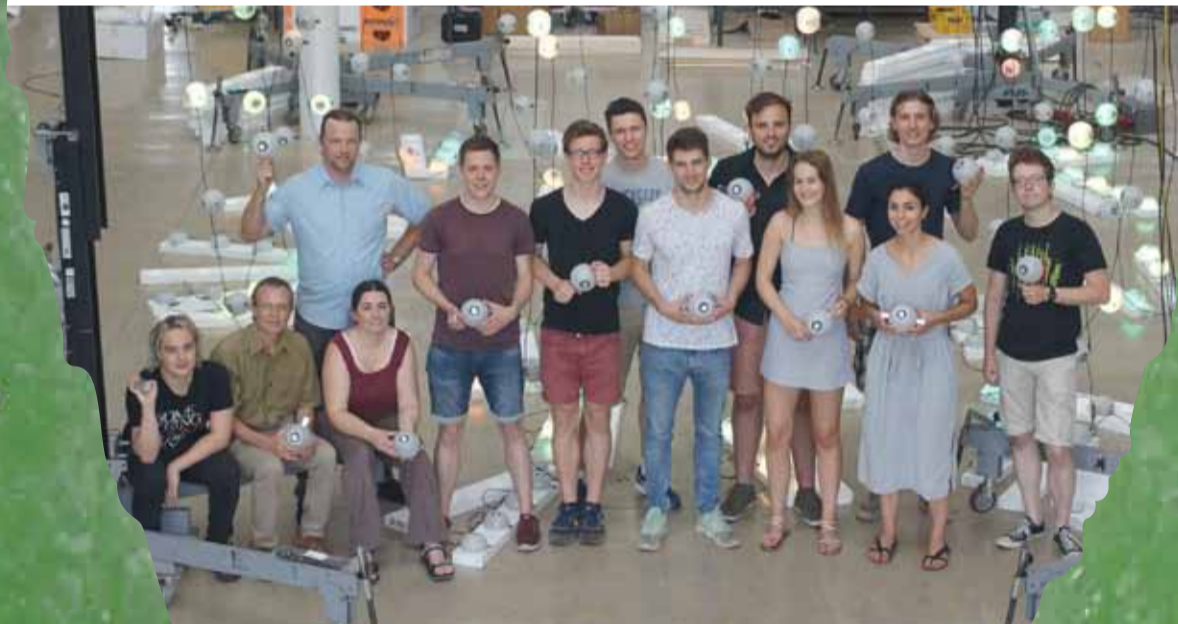
Test setup with AIS³ team at RWTH Aachen University (left to right).
Testaufbau mit dem AIS³-Team an der RWTH Aachen (von links nach rechts): Felix Wiebusch, Christopher Wiebusch, Tim Otto Roth, Miriam Seidler, Jan Audehm, Marc Klinger, Erik Ganster, Maximilian Staggenborg, Lasse Halve, Josina Schulte, Philipp Fürst, Marit Zöcklein, Martin Rongen. Image: imachination projects