



Laudatory Speech

of the Bavarian Minister of State for Science and Art

Bernd Sibler

on the occasion of the presentation of the Cross of Merit on Ribbon of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany on 26 July 2021

to Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Ulrich L. R o h d e, Munich

Dear Professor Rohde,

From 1962 to 1966 you studied radio-frequency technology and communications engineering at the Technical Universities of Munich (TUM) and Darmstadt. From 1965 to 1968 you worked as a development engineer at the United States Underseas Cable Corporation in Cologne. You then joined AEG-Telefunken, where you led the military communications systems department from 1968 to 1974.

Since 1973 you have been a partner at the global firm Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG in Munich, a technology company that operates all over the world. However, you have pursued your career predominantly in the USA, where among other companies you established the Synergy Microwave Corporation in 1985.

You have accomplished great things in the fields of electronics, information and communications technology and initiated important technological developments, including in the areas of CAD simulation tools for analysing and optimising electronic circuits, metrology, energy-saving electronics, signal sources and sensors.

As well as your professional work in industrial research and as the founder and director of companies and research institutes, your academic achievements are also outstanding. Special mention should be made of your excellent contributions in relation to the noise of oscillators, software defined radio and metamaterial structures with a negative refractive index. You have been awarded more than 50 patents, written several textbooks and published more than 300 scientific papers.

Alongside the management roles you have held in your career, you have also continued to acquire academic qualifications. Among others, in 1978 you gained a PhD in radio-frequency technology in the USA and, in recognition of your outstanding achievements, you were invited to join the Eta Kappa Nu Honor Society in the USA.

In 2004 you submitted your dissertation at the Technical University of Berlin. This was followed seven years later by postdoctoral studies at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg.

As a university professor, you have acted as a bridge between American and German universities because you have given lectures on both continents and supervised master's and doctoral theses. Guest professorships have taken you to the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg, the University of Bradford in England, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

Then there is also your work as a benefactor in supporting science. In 2008 you established the Ulrich L. Rohde Foundation in Munich. It promotes scientific teaching and research in the field of electronics and information technology with a particular focus on radio-frequency technology and communications engineering. In 2009 the foundation established the "Ulrich L. Rohde Endowed Chair of Radio-Frequency and Microwave Technology" at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg.

When the TUM created a university foundation in 2011, you provided a considerable amount as a founding donor.

You have received numerous honorary titles and awards both in Germany and in other countries for your scientific work.

In 1977 you were appointed as a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Florida in Gainesville. In 1982 you were appointed as an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering at George Washington University in Washington D.C. and in 1997 the Romanian University of Oradea appointed you as a Professor of Electrical Engineering and Microwave Technology. In 2002 you were appointed as an Honorary Professor of Radio Frequency and Microwave Technology at TU Cottbus-Senftenberg and in 2017 you were appointed as an Honorary Professor at the University of the German Armed Forces Munich.

Since 2013 you have been an honorary member of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities. You have consistently supported work to promote young people within the academy and you provide important suggestions on how research in the natural sciences can continue to evolve.

Special mention should also be made of the internationally prestigious I. I. Rabi Award, named after the physicist Isidor Isaac Rabi, from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) which was presented to you in 2015.

The German President has awarded you the Federal Cross of Merit on Ribbon in recognition of your achievements. I am delighted to be able to present this great honour to you.