Silvia Schmid presents a 1000 Euro donation on behalf of the company Kälte Eckert GmbH to SophiA project manager Prof. Dr. habil. Michael Kauffeld for the family of Prof. Noble Banadda

Photo: Michael Eckert

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Participants of the international EU research project SophiA support family of the deceased African pioneer

Through a donation campaign, a total amount of 2360 Euros will be handed over to the family of Prof. Noble Ephraim Banadda.

Funded "Besides the pride that we can actually start this international research project together today," said project leader Prof. Dr. habil. Michael Kauffeld at the kick-off meeting for SophiA at the HKA in October 2021, "we also mourn the loss of Professor Noble Ephraim Banadda. As a professor of biosystems development at the University of Makerere in Uganda, he was our first contact in Africa and one of the key promoters of SophiA, convincing experts in African ministries of health and various organizations to join the ambitious SophiA project. A man who lived up to his name and whose untimely death at the hands of Covid-19 also further underscores the importance of SophiA."

SophiA is an international research project for the development of sustainable and energy-autonomous refrigerated container systems for African hospitals under the leadership of HKA. The project aims to improve the cooling infrastructure of hospitals and medical stations in re-mote African locations in order to be able to store vaccines against Covid-19 appropriately and thus, to make them available to the population.

To show their solidarity and compassion for Noble Banadda's young family, all SophiA partners present and live streamed at the kick-off meeting at HKA decided to collect donations and send them to his wife Dr. Beatrice Namaganda Banadda and their three children. Just ten days later, SophiA advisory board member Michael Eckert and his brother Holger Eckert, both shareholders of the company Kälte Eckert GmbH, added another 1000 euros, so that a total amount of 2360 euros will be handed over to the family.

Vector vaccines and protein-based vaccines, like many other drugs, require refrigeration to 2 to 8 °C. Vaccines with mRNA technology and some Ebola vaccines require much lower storage temperatures of up to -70 °C. SophiA systems will provide remote hospitals and health clinics with solar-powered cooling chambers for +5 °C, -30 °C and -70 °C. Storage of blood plasma at -30 °C will be facilitated, enabling remote African hospitals to better perform appropriate surgeries locally. In addition, SophiA will provide hospitals and health stations with clean drinking water and hot water/steam for various processes, including sterilization of medical equipment - also thanks to the solar-power solution in the form of photovoltaics and solar thermal energy.

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SophiA consortium

SophiA involves 13 partners from Europe (France, Germany, Switzerland) and Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Uganda and South Africa): Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences (HKA - IKKU; coordinator); University of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland (OST - SPF); Makerere University; Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement; Steinbeis Europa Zentrum; Ministry of Public Health in Cameroon; International Institute of Refrigeration; Operieren in Afrika; Everflo; Kovco; Martin Systems GmbH; Simply Solar GbR; Raach Solar.

SophiA Consortium Members

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