



Stiftung Mercator

Frequently Asked Questions

General

Who founded Stiftung Mercator?

The Schmidt family founded Stiftung Mercator GmbH in Essen and Stiftung Mercator Switzerland in Zurich, endowing the foundation with considerable funds from their own assets. The Schmidt family are the main shareholders in the Metro Group, alongside the Haniel and Beisheim families.

Why is Stiftung Mercator named after Gerhard Mercator?

The Foundation is named after the leading Duisburg cartographer and cosmographer Gerhard Mercator. He is known for combining global thinking, scientific precision and entrepreneurial action. His life also shows the importance of intercultural and interreligious tolerance – values to which Stiftung Mercator is also dedicated.

Why is Stiftung Mercator based in Essen?

The Schmidts, a family of merchants and entrepreneurs, come from the Ruhr and feel a strong sense of loyalty to the region.

Finance

Where do the assets of Stiftung Mercator come from?

The assets of Stiftung Mercator come from the funds provided by the Schmidt family.

To what extent is Stiftung Mercator growing?

In 2008, the volume of grants allocated by Stiftung Mercator doubled as compared with 2007, and increased by a further 50 percent in 2009. In 2009, the figure was approximately 32 million euros, giving the Foundation a total budget of some 37 million euros.