In the mechanical, electrical and electronic workshops the institute carries out the construction and validation of a diversity of experimental test benches and machines as well as the tailor-manufacturing and serial production of prototypes, components and samples for internal use as well as for external customers.

The workshops are not only restricted to cover the research needs of the Institute but they are also product and machine suppliers of our partners in the University and the industry.

An important role of the workshops is the training of qualified mechanics. Our young trainees are supervised and guided by expert mechanics with more than 40 years of experience and are involved in the production of components and the construction of machines for the Institute and its partners.
The Institute of General Mechanics (IAM) has a long history. It originates together with the founding of the University in 1870. The first institute director was August Ritter, whose method of sections is valid to this date in the theory of structures.

The holder of more than thirty international awards (including the National Medal of Science in the USA) and one of the most brilliant scientists in the history of the University, Theodor von Kármán, directed this institute, among others.

The Institute of General Mechanics is responsible for the fundamental academic education in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics for students in diverse programmes such as Mechanical, Materials or Industrial Engineering, as well as the secondary-school teaching aspirants and the technical communication students. In the research field, the Institute covers a wide range of current applications in mechanics, divided into three major groups: Biomechanics, Structural Analysis and Continuum Mechanics of Materials.

Through our laboratories and workshops along with our theoretical skills, we actively contribute to the development and consulting in scientific and industrial projects.

With over 4,000 students each year, the Institute focuses on the instruction of fundamental and highly specialised courses with help of the latest e-learning technologies, providing contents and tools relevant for the future.

Together with our international partners and the RWTH International Academy we are able to offer specialised courses and summer schools for master students and doctoral candidates around the world.