The Dr. Theo Schöller Chair of Technology and Innovation Management offers a Master’s Thesis with the following topic:

The Impact of Acquisitions on Software Innovation – the Case of Open Source Software Contributors

Background and motivation
With Open Source Software gaining more and more popularity among corporations in the tech space acquisitions rose rapidly throughout the recent years. With IBM acquiring Red Hat for $34 billion just marking the tip of the iceberg of a recent acquisition spree this raises the question of how such acquisitions influence the development of Open Source Software (OSS) communities and how companies & individuals react on such acquisitions. As so far there has been no research at the intersection of acquisitions and OSS development it is key to understand which factors drive changes in the behaviour of OSS contributors after an acquisition.

Objectives and Methodology
To gain a better understanding of how individuals (community members around a certain company, or employees of the company) react on acquisitions in the Open Source software space this thesis should answer the following questions:

▪ Which archetypes of reactions exist in the OSS software space?
▪ Which individuals typically showcase which reaction?
▪ Which factors influence what reactions will emerge after a acquisitions?

To do so, a mix of literature review and qualitative analysis (based on interviews) will be appropriate.

What we offer
▪ Work on a topic which is highly relevant for science and practice
▪ Close mentoring and clear milestones
▪ A fun but also challenging working environment
▪ A list of potential interview candidates can be provided and interviews will selectively be conducted together with the thesis supervisor.

What we expect
▪ General interest in research in the field of innovation & technology
▪ Open and pro-active communication style
▪ Independent & diligent working style
▪ Very good grades

Contact
Please contact Michael Vetter (Michael.vetter@tum.de) if you are interested in this topic. Your application should include a short letter of motivation, your CV, and a current transcript of records. For more information on our general requirements, the application procedure, the application deadlines, and the style guidelines please go to https://www.tim.wi.tum.de/index.php?id=210.