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

Acquisition motives in the Open Source Software space

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 one key factor which needs further understanding is the question of why companies, which fully or in parts give away their code for free, are acquired.

Objectives and Methodology
To gain a better understanding of the motives behind acquisitions in the Open Source software space this thesis should achieve the following objectives:

▪ Understand key frameworks to classify acquisition motives and derive framework for analysis in the OSS space.
▪ Determine archetypes of acquisition motives in the OSS space
▪ Find patterns of attributes of targets, acquirers and the acquisitions themselves that are common for the respective archetypes.

To do so, a mix of literature review & web research and qualitative analysis (case studies) might be appropriate.

What we offer
▪ Work on a topic which is highly relevant for science and practice
▪ Close mentoring and clear milestones
▪ Initial ideas for literature and data
▪ A fun but also challenging working environment

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.