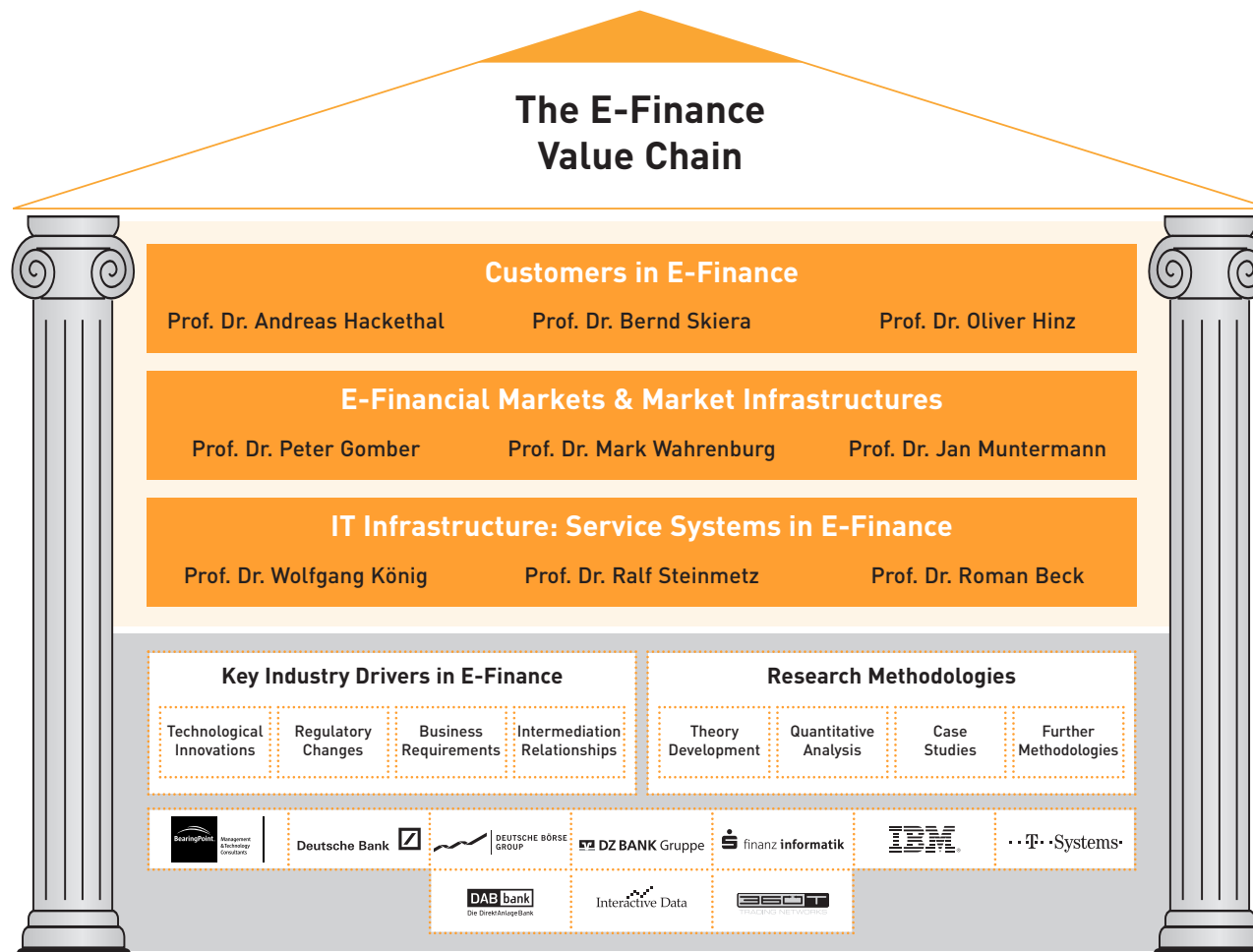


## Editorial

# The E-Finance Lab after Six Years of Success – Strategic Review and New Structure

Peter Gomber Wolfgang König



For more than a year, the E-Finance Lab has been a proud resident of the House of Finance (HoF) of Frankfurt's Goethe University ([www.hof.uni-frankfurt.de](http://www.hof.uni-frankfurt.de)) – an interdisciplinary institution comprising 150 researchers and 6 research and advanced teaching institutions in finance (part of business administration), money & macroeconomics (part of economics) and corporate & financial law, complemented by expertise in information systems and technologies, and mathematics. Both the HoF and the E-Finance Lab – the largest research institute within the HoF – as well as our industry partners are affected by the financial crisis and the questions on its roots and on the effectiveness of measures taken or to be taken in its aftermath: Which lessons do we have to learn from the financial crisis? How did information systems and electronic networks contribute and how can they be used to overcome and to ease unwanted results of the crisis?

Against the background of both our integration into the HoF and the new environment for the financial industry due to the crisis, together with our industry partners, we decided after a strategic review to replace the traditional five pillar structure of the E-Finance Lab by a novel three stacked layer model (see figure) effective January 2010, each layer being jointly led by two professors plus a junior professor. Moreover, the overall research subject of the E-Finance Lab has been adjusted to “The E-Finance Value Chain” – its optimization and integration.

The objective of the reorganization is fourfold: First, we better integrate the E-Finance Lab in itself. Second, we improve interfaces to research areas within the HoF, e.g. with respect to systemic risk management or to customers in financial services institutions. Third, we want to leverage our “unique selling proposition” relative to other research institutes: the integration of research methodologies in information systems research (the „E”) with methodologies in finance. Fourth, we want to clearly and easily communicate the key focus themes of our research: IT Infrastructure, Market Infrastructure and Customers.