OICE is a non-profit organisation and is open to scientists (FAU internal or external) at the conditions laid out below.

1. Owners who contribute equipment to the pool do not have to pay for the use of their own equipment.
2. Owners who contribute equipment to the pool will pay 50% of the usage fee for other equipment until the equivalent usage value assigned to their contributed equipment is reached. After this time, the full usage fee will be charged.
3. Users who have not contributed equipment to the pool will pay the full usage fee.
4. Maintenance and repair of pool equipment will be organised and funded by OICE in proportion to the time of use. Individual contributions to repair costs, depending on the age of the equipment, will be negotiated when the equipment is added to the pool.
5. The core hours of use are Monday to Friday from 8.00 to 18.00. During this time, 100% of the standard hourly rate will be used as the basis for calculation.
6. At all other times 75% of the standard hourly rate will be charged.
7. Long-term measurements during the night are charged at 75% of the standard hourly rate. Individual pricing for long-term measurements can be negotiated upon special request.
8. Cancellations are free of charge up to 24 hours before the agreed time of use. If a booking is cancelled less than 24 hours in advance, 50% of the standard hourly rate will be charged. If another user books the equipment during the cancelled period of use, the cancelled hours will not be charged. Cancellations of shared equipment bookings are always free of charge, but the usage period will remain in the booking system and count towards the total usage time for cancellations with less than 24 hours notice.
9. Time credits earned on contributed equipment are valid for a maximum of 12 months after removal from the pool, but cannot exceed the total time the equipment was part of the OICE pool.
10. The use of contributed equipment must be documented via the booking system.
11. In case of overbooking, we will decide how to co-ordinate the use of the equipment in question based on the nature of the samples/experiments, time constraints (e.g. manuscript deadlines) of the projects, previous documented results (e.g. publications, conference papers).
12. The use of contributed and pool equipment is documented and invoiced every three months. Invoices will reflect the actual time of use.
13. Each new user of non-contributed equipment will be charged an initial service and training fee of €100. Each project will receive one free trial session (< 3 hours).

Co-authorship & acknowledgements:

As OICE is funded by a variety of sources, it is mandatory that publications of images or data resulting from work or support by OICE staff be acknowledged, e.g., with the phrase Microscopy/Image analysis was performed with the support of the Optical Imaging Competence Centre Erlangen
(OICE) and NAME OF STAFF MEMBER. OICE staff may also be involved in scientific collaborations leading to co-authorship in accordance with the DFG Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice. Publications must be added to the OICE publication database by the respective first / last / corresponding author after they have been made publicly available.

Most of the instruments are co-funded by the DFG.
Besondere Verwendungsrichtlinien für Forschungsgroßgeräte nach Art. 91b.
Special usage guidelines for large-scale research equipment according to Art. 91b

Publications (Acknowledgement) must include the project number(s) and the following statement

"Funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - Project Number(s)".
or
"Supported by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) - project number(s)".

Liability:

By using the services provided by OICE, each group leader/user agrees to the following liability rules: Damage to the equipment that is not due to normal wear and tear of parts at the end of their average life, i.e. damage caused by users due to improper use, will be repaired at the expense of the responsible Principal Investigator account. Each user is required to test the booked equipment for proper functioning before the start of the session. If improper operation is found during this initial check, the user must immediately submit an incident report or report the problem in person to a member of staff. If the OICE pool equipment is found to be malfunctioning without an incident report or personal notification, the last user of the equipment will be held responsible for the damage.
When working under S1 or S2 conditions, the PI remains responsible for the supervision of his/her employees in relation to health and safety regulations.

The OICE provides the following services to the contributors of pool equipment:

- Infrastructure for the operation of high-end microscopy systems including security level S2 GenTech.
- Professional scientific assistance regarding imaging techniques and sample preparation.
- Project planning regarding imaging strategy and sample preparation.
- On-demand optimisation of image acquisition parameters regarding the particular samples (oneoff free service, < 2 hours).
- Online booking, management and report system.
- Manufacturer contact regarding maintenance and repairs for all devices in the pool.
- Basic introduction to the particular device for new users. *
- GenTech S2 approved laboratory for sample preparation (workbench, incubation, short-term sample storage).
- In selected cases a scientific cooperation with the CFU / ERU / MPL / Fraunhofer IIS is possible under co-authorship.
- Maintenance of the hard- and software systems.
- Platform for documentation.
- Excellent international scientific networking with leading universities and institutes.

*** Introduction to a microscopy system is only offered to future OICE users. If the system is not booked within the following 6 weeks, the training will be charged with 10 core hours of that system to compensate for the cost incurred.**

Ralf Palmisano
Head of Optical Imaging Competence Centre (OICE)

Appendix: List of DFG project numbers for OICE instruments

Instrument	Project number
SRRF camera	261193037
Zeiss Multi-Photon LSM	261193037
Zeiss Spinning Disc LSM:	248122450
Evident Spinning Disc Super Resolution	522417173
Abberior STED LSM:	263718168
Leica Stellaris CLSM:	441730715
Leica Thunder Imager:	450993414
Leica SP5 CLSM:	52732026
LaVision Lightsheet:	391371888

You can also search www.dfg.de/gepris