

Nanotechnology needs Promotion of Young Talents to Keep Up Germany's Innovation**Advantage**

The nanotechnology is categorized to be one of the key-technologies of the 21st century. Promotion of the young is therefore – not least because of the severe need for experts in many areas of technology – determining to keep up the innovation advance of Germany in the nanotechnologies. This stated Dr. Alois Rhiel, Hessian minister for economy, travel and state development, on the occasion of the 5th Nanotechnology forum Hesse of the Aktionsslinie Hessen-Nanotech (www.hessen-nanotech.de/nanoforum) with the slogan "Mit Nanotechnologien die Zukunft gestalten" (to form future with nano technologies) in the frame of the "nanotech week frankfurt" from 11 to 13 November on the area of the Frankfurt Fair.

This year the professional conference addresses also especially the specialists of tomorrow - young professionals, students and pupils. Up to 2012 the global sales at the nanotechnology market is predicted to be 200 Bill EUR – a significant indication of the importance of this growth branch. The sales connected to nanotechnology moved in 2007 in Germany to 52 Bill EUR. According to Rhiel are in the federal state Hesse as top location for this industrial branch one-sixth of all German (100 operative companies) and one-tenth of all European nanotech-enterprises active plus 70 research groups at 11 universities.

The "nanotech week frankfurt" furthermore offered with the European professional fair "NanoSolutions 2008" – technologies . integration . products (www.nanosolutions-frankfurt.de), having taken place for the fourth time, the first

two events were at the KölnMesse, an excellent platform for the branch. Their leitmotif: the speedy transfer of nanotechnological insights, procedures and products into specific applications for the market. The fair with around 110 national and international exhibitors presented therefore not only current developments but also intermediate products, integrational products as well as end products. Organizer was G+J Expomedia Events GmbH, Hamburg – a joint venture of the Gruner + Jahr AG & Co KG and the Expomedia Deutschland GmbH.

At the fair the Cluster Nanotechnology of the Allianz Bayern Innovativ (www.nanoinitiative-bayern.de) presented itself for the second time. It was started in 2006 by the Bavarian State Government and helps with effective networks and procedures to realize the industrial transfer of this promising future-technology. The fascination of pupils for the nanotechnology is a special desire of this alliance. Therefore, staff members often drive to Bavaria's schools with a Nanoshuttle. The branch urgently needs academic young professionals. The Verein Deutscher Ingenieure e.V. (VDI) (German engineers) reported in summer 2008 more than 96,000 vacancies for engineers.

The special highlight this year in Frankfurt was the connection to the forum of the branch NanoEquity Europe of the Deutschen Eigenkapitalforum (www.eigenkapitalforum.com), which had been organized by the German Stock Exchange. The forum is the central financing event for Nano- and Micro-technologies. It was stated on the press conference to the NanoSolutions Fair that currently

about 1,000 German companies are active in the branch. The "Nano-Hype" would have lessened somewhat, with the result that also some „black sheep“ have vanished from the market. For success in this industrial branch, time and patience are important factors. There are at the moment less new launches than six or eight years ago. Considering the financial crisis it has become more difficult for newcomers to raise risk capital. Nonetheless, the state ministries still promote the nanotechnology. For the branch, economic fluctuations are nothing new, they have seen better or worse days and will survive the economic crisis that's hap-

pening now. The oldest respectable middle-class enterprises would be already 10 years old. Not everywhere where it says Nano on the label would be really Nano in it. The Unternehmerinitiative für nachhaltige Nanotechnologie „forumnano“ (entrepreneurial initiative for sustainable Nanotechnology) (www.forumnano.org) in Frankfurt has therefore created quality standards – the internationally first, scientifically accepted seal of approval to label Nano-products.

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