

European Excellence Network Nano2Life



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180 top nanotechnology and biotechnology researchers met between 19–21 March in Saarbrücker Schloss. The occasion was the selection of the biggest EU nanobiotechnology project: Nano2Life (N2L). The aim of the three year project was to bundle expert knowledge in the field of nanobiotechnology and to strengthen European industry in the face of competition from the USA and Asia in this technology for the future. "I'm proud that our region is part of this internationally-oriented project", stressed the Saarland minister for employment and economic affairs, Dr. Hanspeter Georgi, at the press conference. "This event offers nanotechnology re-

search a suitable platform for intensifying cooperation between the various scientific disciplines". The organiser of the international conference is the NanoBioNet network. NanoBioNet is an active member of the EU project and heads its "Communication" division.

During the conference, researchers in working groups developed innovative solutions for many current issues. The topics included environmental protection and combating diseases. Cancer, for example, is a field in which nanoparticles are to be deployed as transport media to lead the drug precisely to the cell affected, so healthy tissue remains unaffected. In the field of

environmental protection, the focus is on controlling pathogens and pollutants in water, soil, air or food.

Nano2Life unites around 200 leading researchers active in 12 European countries and 23 institutions. The EU project is funded by € 8.8 million in total and is planned to additionally run for four years. The key areas in basic research are in the development of new nanobiological techniques, devices and materials. Furthermore, the scientists are developing innovative projects in training and education.

NanoBioNet is a network of companies, universities, hospitals and institutions in the fields of biotechnology, chemical nanotechnology, medical technology, as well as business, politics and technology transfer. Their common interest is directed towards research and development and the practical application of nanotechnology, biotechnology and nanobiotechnology as a means of generating marketable products and new jobs – and to achieve this by way of ethical technology.

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