



PRESS RELEASE

Germany's best – Nanogate is finalist in “Entrepreneur of the Year 2006”

Saarbrücken/Frankfurt, 22 September 2006. Nanogate AG was the only nanotechnology company to reach the finals of Germany's “Entrepreneur of the Year” awards. At a gala yesterday in the Alte Oper in Frankfurt am Main, tribute was paid to the economic achievements of entrepreneurs in Germany.

Nanogate, a dynamically growing nanotechnology company, reached the finals of “Entrepreneur of the Year 2006”. An independent panel of eminent experts paid tribute to the entrepreneurial achievements of finalists in the Industry, Retail, Services, Information Technology and Start-up categories. This was the tenth time the awards had been presented in Germany. The winners were announced and tribute was paid to the finalists at a festive gala held on 21 September in Frankfurt am Main's Alte Oper that was attended by 900 invited guests from the fields of business, politics and culture.

Ralf Zastrau, CEO of Nanogate AG, said, “Dynamic entrepreneurship is receiving increasing recognition in Germany. Nanogate AG is an example of transformation from a technology company to a market-driven, economically successful business undertaking.” Nanogate is one of the few nanotech companies that operates worldwide and has launched a variety of products on the market in conjunction with industrial partners including ABB, BSH, Giesecke & Devrient, Kärcher and Koenig & Bauer. Nanogate Technology® imparts new properties to any kind of surface, such as ceramics, plastic, metal or glass. The product portfolio ranges from refined engine parts, sports surfaces and textiles to industrial applications for glass. “We anticipate that in ten years' time one in two products will come into contact with nanotechnology,” Mr. Zastrau said.

Nanogate has been profitable since 2004 as an enabler for chemical nanotechnology and is planning to make an initial public offering this year, subject to general developments on the capital markets. The company plans to use the IPO proceeds to finance planned growth, for example by expanding and building new fields of business and technology platforms and by extending development and production capacity.

Queries? Please feel free to contact:

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Background information:

Nanogate AG

Nanogate is a leading international enabler in the nanotechnology growth market and so opens the gate to nanotechnology for its customers. The Saarbrücken-based company enables the programming and integration of additional properties such as non-stick, anti-bacterial, anti-corrosive, ultra-low friction. Nanogate thereby gains a competitive edge for customers by product refinement using chemical nanotechnology. Nanogate covers a wide range of industries, functions and substrates, forming a crucial interface for the commercialisation of chemical nanotechnology. It bridges the gap between raw materials and their industrial conversion into products and concentrates as an enabler on the most economically attractive segment in the industry.

As a partner in innovation, Nanogate provides many services along the value chain – from development and production of innovative nanocomposites and nanostructured materials to powerful support for innovation and product integration. The Nanogate Group currently has 45 employees and since commencing operations in 1999 has been a pioneer in nanotechnology. The company has first-class customer references and many years' experience of different industries and applications. Nanogate is a high-growth company and has been profitable since financial year 2004. The Group's consolidation entity also includes Nanogate Advanced Materials GmbH, which specialises in safety engineering and optics in a joint venture with US corporation Air Products. Nanogate also holds a stake in HOLMENKOL Sport-Technologies GmbH & Co. KG.

The Entrepreneur of the Year awards

Ernst & Young organises the Entrepreneur of the Year awards in more than 40 countries worldwide. In Germany, the awards are being presented for the tenth time in 2006. These awards identify and honour outstanding entrepreneurial achievements. A neutral jury of eminent business people and academics selects the Entrepreneurs of the Year. Well-known companies and media support the competition in the capacity of partners. They include BMW, Capgemini, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and Manager magazine.