



PRESS RELEASE

New platform for nanotechnology enterprises: foundation of the *forumnano* alliance

Nanogate promotes alliance of nanotechnology SMEs

Saarbrücken/Cologne, 28 November 2006 – The *forumnano* alliance is being launched on 28 November at the official opening ceremony of the second NanoSolutions trade fair in Cologne. The new action group, set up on the initiative of Nanogate AG in cooperation with other companies and NanoSolutions as a future platform for nanotechnology SMEs, makes its first public appearance today.

From 28 to 30 November, EXPO XXI will be the venue of NanoSolutions in Cologne and the meeting place for professionals from the European nanotechnology scene. About 100 German and international exhibitors, including **Nanogate AG**, are exhibiting the latest developments and innovations in nanotechnology. The Saarbrücken-based company is also very strongly committed to the industry growing together. To enable nano SMEs in particular to speak with one voice and to promote the responsible use of nanotechnology, Nanogate is launching the **forumnano** alliance together with other companies and NanoSolutions.

forumnano is intended to bundle and represent at national and EU level the interests of leading nanotechnology SMEs in political and social communication and to inform the general public about the opportunities and potential of sustainable nanotechnology. A crucial step in that direction is the introduction of a seal of quality for nanoproducts. A code of good practice is intended to ensure recognition of the high quality standards of nanotechnology products. "In what is still a very young industry, a strong, nationwide, independent network of SMEs does not yet exist", says Holger Zytur, member of the **Nanogate AG** management. "We aim to close this gap with **forumnano** and thereby exert a positive influence on market conditions for our members." Around 20 companies have so far expressed an interest in collaborating in **forumnano**.



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Political experts will attend the forum**nano** launch event. Social Democrat Ulla Burchardt, chair of the Bundestag's Committee on Education, Research and Technological Impact Assessment, and Free Democrat Dr Jorgo Chatzimarkakis MEP, Chairman of the Committee for the European Technology Institute (ETI), will give the opening address at the NanoSolutions Press conference.

Along with NanoSolutions 2006, a conference on **Sustainability in Nanotechnology** will be held at EXPO XXI on 29 November to look into the much discussed issue of "Great Opportunities! – Great Risks? – On Using Nanotechnology Responsibly". Highly qualified experts from various industries will discuss the opportunities and risks of nanotechnology. This event is aimed at potential industrial users of nanotechnology and the entire nano community. Topics will include the social acceptance, environmental repercussions and potential for progress of nanotechnology. This exclusive event is sponsored by forum**nano**.

Further information about forum**nano** is available from the alliance's trade fair stand at NanoSolutions and at www.forumnano.de.

Queries? Please feel free to contact:

forumNano

c/o PLATO Kommunikation
Reinhardtstraße 19
10117 Berlin
Tel. +49/(0)30/72 62 67-65
Fax +49/(0)30/72 62 67-61
forum.nano@plato.de

Klaus Reuning

MPW FINANCE
Public & Investor Relations GmbH
Tel. +49/(0)69/95 92 90-0
Fax +49/(0)69/95 92 90-29
nanogate@mpwfinance.com

Nanogate AG

Gewerbepark Eschbergerweg
D-66121 Saarbrücken
Tel.: +49/(0)681/980 52-0
Fax: +49/(0)681/980 52-52
www.nanogate.com

About 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 firm 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 its customers by product refinement using chemical nanotechnology. Nanogate covers a wide range of industries, functions and substrates already on the basis of technology platforms. The company thus provides a decisive interface for the commercialisation of chemical nanotechnology, bridges the gap between raw materials and their industrial conversion into products and concentrates as an enabler on one of the most attractive segments 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 in all and since commencing operations in 1999 has



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been a pioneer in nanotechnology. The company has first-class customer references, such as ABB, BSH, Giesecke & Devrient, Kärcher and Koenig & Bauer, and many years' experience of different industries and applications. It has also entered into strategic cooperation with US companies Dow Corning and ESK Ceramics. Nanogate is a high-growth company and has been profitable since financial year 2004. For the first half of 2006, the Nanogate Group reported about €3.7 million in sales and about €0.7 million in earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT margin: 19.1%). The Group's consolidation entity includes Nanogate Advanced Materials GmbH, which specialises in safety engineering and optics and is a joint venture with Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Nanogate also holds a stake in HOLMENKOL Sport-Technologies GmbH & Co. KG.