



## Press Release

19 June 2007  
131/2007

### **Thomas Rachel: "Billion Euro Market in Nanotechnology"**

#### **State Secretary opens biggest European conference in this field**

The dimensions are tiny, the opportunities are huge: While structures in nanotechnology are only a few millionth of a millimetre in size, many experts expect turnover to be in the billions. "The market potential of nanotechnology is enormous," said Parliamentary State Secretary Thomas Rachel when opening the EuroNanoForum 2007 in Düsseldorf on Tuesday. Experts forecast a worldwide turnover in nanotechnology products of up to 1000 billion Euro in 2015. This year, the biggest European conference in this field therefore takes place under the motto of "Nanotechnology in industrial applications". The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the European Commission are organizing the conference together within the framework of the German EU Council Presidency.

"In nanotechnology, Europe is one of the global leaders," said Rachel. "We must do everything to secure and further enhance our position." In the words of Rachel, Germany is the European leader in this field. "Nanotechnology is an important driver of innovation. It strengthens Europe's economic power and helps us in securing our future prosperity." In addition to its economic importance, this technology will also have to play a social role: "We expect nanotechnology research to provide entirely new approaches in important fields such as climate protection and health," said the State Secretary.

Over a period of three days, high-level representatives of science, industry and politics will be discussing in Düsseldorf the latest developments in nanotechnology and their transfer into innovative products and services. – "1,000 participants from over 50 nations are strong proof of the significance attached to nanotechnology today all over the world," said State Secretary Rachel.

Within the framework of its High-tech Strategy, the Federal Government launched the "Nano-Initiative – Action Plan 2010". The Federal Government will fund nanotechnology with a total of 640 million Euro up until 2009; this has also been laid down in the High-tech Strategy. The European Commission has earmarked a total of 1.5 billion Euro for nanotechnology under its 7th EU Research Framework Programme up until 2013. "This means setting the right course for the future," said Rachel.

HAUSANSCHRIFT  
Hannoversche Straße 28-30, 10115  
Berlin

POSTANSCHRIFT  
11055 Berlin

TEL + 49 (0)30 18 57-50 50  
FAX + 49 (0)30 18 57-55 51

E-Mail: [presse@bmbf.bund.de](mailto:presse@bmbf.bund.de)  
[www.bundesregierung.de](http://www.bundesregierung.de)  
[www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de)

19 June 2007

"Now, industry must actually translate excellent research results into innovative products and thus create new and future-oriented jobs," said the State Secretary. Rachel said that one of the central topics of the conference in Düsseldorf was the question how to achieve the necessary knowledge transfer as rapidly as possible.

"Europe – succeeding together" is the motto of the German EU Council Presidency and Rachel used it to also refer to further challenges: "The global competition is not only a competition for costs, infrastructures and framework conditions. It is also a competition for the best talents worldwide." Nanotechnology in Europe must become attractive for young talents also.

More information on the conference in Düsseldorf is available on the Internet under [www.euronanoforum2007.de](http://www.euronanoforum2007.de).

Further information on European research policy and the German EU Council Presidency is available under [www.bmbf.de](http://www.bmbf.de) and [www.eu2007.de](http://www.eu2007.de).