



NANORA
Nano Regions Alliance



Press Release

European nanotech network expands into new phase

Frankfurt. The international network of regional institutions that support nanotechnology companies will be expanded further after the successful completion of its EU-funded phase. This is the message which the NANORA (Nano Regions Alliance) conveyed with its two-day conference on nanotechnology held during the chemistry trade fair ACHEMA at Frankfurt on the 17th and 18th of June.

Ulrike Niedner-Kalthoff from the State of Hessen's Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Regional Development, which chairs the alliance, laid out the future developments planned for the network. "Originally the network was focused on Northwest Europe, but since the end of 2014 we have been able to steadily expand the membership", she said. "After the entrepreneurs' visit to Poland, for instance, the Polish network Nanonet has joined the alliance, and we are now in discussions with partners in Spain and Sweden."

Even though NANORA will no longer offer direct financial support to its members after the EU funding runs out, the crucial activities of the network, such as services of its contact database, will be maintained. The network will continue to establish connections with matching expertise to companies and research institutes, working to the same high standards as before. In addition, the alliance can help its members if they organise in smaller groups to apply for joint funding opportunities.

At the start of the event, Sebastian Hummel from the Ministry of Economics provided an overview of the success stories of the last two years. The network was set up in 2013 with EU funding from the INTERREG B programme. The aim was to provide SMEs that are active or interested in nanotechnology with contacts to international partners, in order to facilitate their access to innovations and markets. An entrepreneurs' visit to Poland and productive specialist meetings, as well as the participation in several international conferences established valuable contacts, from which co-operations across national boundaries have evolved. A core activity that remains a lasting legacy of the EU project is the standardised contacts database known as TINCA (Transnational Interactive Nanotechnology Competence Atlas).

Scientific talks on Thursday morning offered highlights on research and development in the field of nanoscale coatings. On Thursday afternoon the focus was on funding and the question how entrepreneurs can find support grants or investment for a start-up. With these valuable insights and the continuing logistic support of the TINCA database, nanotech entrepreneurs in Europe's regions are well-equipped for the big future awaiting small technologies.