



The future of nanotechnology has already begun. Even today nanotechnological developments influence a world market volume of 100 billion Euro per year. For the coming five to ten years, experts predict a tenfold increase, which would raise the world market volume to one trillion Euro. In order to fully benefit from this potential, we need to swiftly blend good ideas into appropriate products. Only this approach will enable us to make Europe the strongest economic area worldwide.

Europe needs to make use of the opportunities afforded by nanotechnology. The conditions are favourable. In the field of nanotechnology Europe is already in the lead. We have excellent scientists and businesses with an openness to innovation and which are developing and launching new products. The 7th Research Framework Programme of the European Union makes a valuable contribution to this, as do the national measures taken within the member states – such as, in Germany, the Nano-Initiative - Action Plan 2010.

As an enabling technology nanotechnology enters the value-added chain at an early stage. Nanotechnology is in demand for the realisation of smaller-scale, faster, more powerful or more ‘intelligent’ system components for products with significantly improved or even entirely new functionalities. Nanoparticles targeting tumours with pinpoint accuracy, minuscule data storage devices storing the content of an entire DVD within the space of a one cent coin, self-cleaning surfaces or mechanically reinforced sports equipment are but a few examples.

EuroNanoForum 2007 is a joint initiative by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the European Commission. The aim of this year’s Forum is to bring together Science and Economy, in order to ensure that current scientific findings in nanotechnology merge into products and applications at an even greater speed, thus creating new sustainable jobs.

EuroNanoForum 2007 will give new impulses for innovations in nanotechnology. These innovations will take Europe forward on the path of becoming the number one business location.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Annette Schavan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Annette Schavan, MdB
Federal Minister of Education and Research