



**Berichterstattung zu strategischen Entwicklungen auf den Politikfeldern des  
BMBF in führenden Industrieländern**

**Frankreich**

**Launch of new Network of Excellence on  
prion diseases**

On 28 May the French Commission for Atomic Energy (CEA) organised a conference to launch a new Network of Excellence on prion diseases. With 52 laboratories in 20 countries, the project, 'Neuroprion' will to be the world's largest research network in this field. With European Commission funding of 14.4 million euro over five years, Neuroprion will bring together 90 per cent of European activities in BSE, vCJD, and scrapie (a sheep prion disease) research. The focus of the conference will be on prevention, treatment, epidemiology and risk assessment of prion diseases. On the same day, the CEA will also inaugurate a new prion research facility.

<http://www.neuroprion.com/>

(Zusammenführung von ASA, BIT, FFF und TIG in einer Gesellschaft)

- Reform des Wissenschaftsfonds (FWF) (ua. Neuschaffung eines Aufsichtsrats, Einführung von Mehrjahresplanungen)
- Umwandlung des Rates für Forschung und Technologieentwicklung in eine juristische Person des öffentlichen Rechts sui generis

Gleichzeitig werden die wichtigsten mit Forschungsförderung betrauten Einrichtungen des Bundes im "Haus der Forschung" auch räumlich zusammengeführt.

[http://www.bmvit.gv.at/sixcms/detail.php/template/i/\\_e1/3/\\_id/4981](http://www.bmvit.gv.at/sixcms/detail.php/template/i/_e1/3/_id/4981)

**EU / Europa**

**CERN supports drive for free access to  
data**

CERN, the European particle-physics laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland, has thrown its weight behind the open-access movement, the international effort to promote unrestricted access to scientific knowledge. It already makes papers available online for free, copyright permitting. Its formal support for open access is still significant, says Jürgen Renn, director at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

CERN, one of the world's main physics laboratories, signed a declaration on 13 May committing the lab to making its re-

**Österreich**

**Forschungsförderungs-Strukturreform-  
gesetz beschlossen**

Am 26. Mai 2004 wurde die Regierungsvorlage des Forschungsförderungs-Strukturreformgesetzes im Ministerrat beschlossen. Wesentliche Inhalte der Strukturreform der Forschungsförderungslandschaft sind:

- Gründung der Österreichischen Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft mbH

search results freely available over the Internet. The declaration, launched last October in Berlin, has 38 signatories so far, including all the major research organizations in Germany and the CNRS, France's main national research agency.

[http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v429/n6989/full/429234a\\_fs.html](http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v429/n6989/full/429234a_fs.html)

### **EU-Competitiveness Council remarks on inadequate R&D and innovation spending**

The EU's Competitiveness Council focused on how to increase Europe's competitiveness and innovation. It called on the Commission and the Member States to put in place policies and measures, possibly including public-private partnerships, to encourage innovation and stimulate private investment in research. Ministers also discussed initiatives to strengthen excellence in public research, increase the supply of skilled human resources, and enable enterprises to network with universities.

Ministers agreed that actions which boost competitiveness, innovation, entrepreneurship, research and the creation of small firms are now 'imperative'. But in order to ensure success in each of these fields, and to achieve the Lisbon objectives of sustainable growth, they decided that the Member States must adopt an integrated policy approach. Life sciences and biotechnology were identified as being 'important for the development of a knowledge-based economy and as key enabling technologies for future industrial development and innovation.' The Council also discussed 'better regulation' and the REACH proposal on a new EU chemical regulatory framework.

The Council will continue discussions on REACH following consideration of the proposals by the Environment Council in June.

[http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/80496.pdf](http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/80496.pdf)

## **USA**

### **Report Focuses on Evaluating R&D**

A new report from the Advanced Technology Program (ATP), A Toolkit for Evaluating Public R&D Investment, provides useful information to anyone interested in evaluating publicly-sponsored research and development (R&D) programs. Focusing on more than 40 evaluations performed for ATP, it offers a comprehensive and understandable overview of evaluation methods and applying those approaches.

Alongside a general framework for evaluation, the bulk of the report is focused on how the evaluation methods have been applied to ATP, drawing on various studies commissioned by ATP between 1990-2000. The final section centers around the results of ATP in five major themes: firm or industry effects, collaboration effects, spill-over effects, interfaces and comparisons with other programs, and measures of overall performance. The report concludes with recommendations for future directions in evaluation.

<http://www.atp.nist.gov/eao/gcr03-857/contents.htm>

### **Recommendations for Strengthening the U.S. Innovation Infrastructure**

A new report by the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), an alliance of 2,500 electronic and high-tech companies and associations, concludes that the U.S.'s ability to adapt, compete and innovate alongside emerging workforces in countries such as China and India is threatened by a systematically weak education system, a dearth of R&D funding, visa policy that discourages foreign minds and a business climate heavy with regulatory and tax burdens. The report advises fostering and expanding of innovation for the U.S. to maintain its edge against rising global competition.

The EIA report offers recommendations to strengthen the nation's policies in six major areas: trading environment; visas and immigration; business, tax and regulatory environment; worker education and training; K-12 education system; and R&D funding. Ensuring adequate federal funding for basic research is one of the report's key recommendations. An entire chapter is devoted to the importance of basic and applied R&D. The report warns that Japan, the European Union and China have made considerable progress in successfully adapting features of the U.S. innovation model to gain parity with or even challenge the U.S. competitive edge in innovation.

<http://www.aip.org/fyi/2004/067.html>  
[http://www.eia.org/docs/innovation\\_playbook.pdf](http://www.eia.org/docs/innovation_playbook.pdf)

### **Changing Role of Community Colleges Redefining the S&T Workforce**

Community colleges can play an important part in shaping the workforce in the S&T sector since states across the country are experiencing growth in community college enrollment, according to a recent report from the National Science Foundation (NSF), *The Role of Community Colleges in the Education of Recent Science and Engineering Graduates*. Full and part-time enrollment at community colleges nationwide has risen 13.5 % between 1990-2000 and more than 40 % of recent S&E graduates have attended community college at some point in their educational paths.

<http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/infbrief/nsf04315/start.htm>

### **Russland**

#### **Talks pave way for docking between Russia and ESA**

Russian and European space officials are discussing the possibility of Russia joining the 15-member European Space Agency (ESA) - a move that would put ESA on a par with NASA in terms of spaceflight experience and access to orbit. In an ESA-

document called *Agenda 2007* released last October, it was proposed that Russia be admitted as an associate member of ESA, with a status similar to that of Canada. ESA has been building steadily closer ties with Russia, and is constructing a launch pad at its site in Kourou, French Guiana, for the Russian Soyuz rocket, with launches to begin in 2007.

[http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v429/n6989/full/429232b\\_fs.html](http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v429/n6989/full/429232b_fs.html)

#### **Russia Prepares to Ratify Kyoto**

Snubbing a new report from the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), President Vladimir Putin has promised that Russia will move to ratify the Kyoto Protocol to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Russia's ratification would bring the treaty into force. Andrey Illarionov, an economic adviser to Putin and member of the RAS panel, has sought to rebut the view that Russia stands to reap a windfall by selling carbon credits, arguing instead that a vibrant economy would soon bring Russia back above 1990 emissions levels, the Kyoto cap. Observers suspect that Putin was using Kyoto as a bargaining chip all along.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/304/5675/1225a>

### **China**

#### **30 Jahre Zusammenarbeit zwischen der Chinesischen Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft**

In Europa ist die Max-Planck-Gesellschaft der wichtigste Kooperationspartner der Chinesischen Akademie der Wissenschaften. Am 24. Mai 2004 feierten die beiden Institutionen mit einer Festveranstaltung in Beijing das 30jährige Bestehen ihrer Forschungskoooperation. Dabei wurde eine Absichtserklärung ("letter of intent") über die wissenschaftlich gemeinsam verantwortete Gründung eines Forschungsinsti-

tuts der Chinesischen Akademie der Wissenschaften in China als ein "Partner-Institut" der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft unterzeichnet.

In den 30 Jahren der Zusammenarbeit haben über 1500 chinesische Wissenschaftler längere Zeit an Max-Planck-Instituten geforscht und ebenso viele deutsche Wissenschaftler in China gearbeitet. Wie erfolgreich die Partnerschaft gelungen ist, zeigt sich auch daran, dass etwa ein Drittel aller Leitungs- und Direktorenpositionen in der Chinesischen Akademie mit Wissenschaftlern besetzt ist, die in Deutschland ausgebildet worden sind.

<http://www.mpg.de/bilderBerichteDokumente/dokumentation/pressemitteilungen/2004/pressemitteilung20040521/genPDF.pdf>

### **Space Race: How far is it to the Moon – measured in Yuan?**

China launched taikonaut Yang Liwei into Earth orbit on 15 Oct 03, becoming only the third nation to join that exclusive club. In the jingoism that followed there was talk of space stations, Moon bases and trips to Mars. Even in the U.S., President Bush rose to the challenge announcing a return to the Moon and on to Mars. But now, Wang Yongzhi, chief designer of China's space program, reveals that China's manned space program has already cost 18 billion yuan (\$2.18 billion). The Moon is just too many yuan away. China now plans to build a space station of their own in 15 years.

<http://www.aps.org/WN/WN03/wn101703.cfm>

<http://www.aps.org/WN/WN04/wn011604.cfm>

## **Indien**

### **India's Space Program in transition**

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has made steady progress in building satellites and ground infrastructure for applications of space technology. ISRO launch vehicles can carry satellites into polar sunsynchronous and geosynchronous

orbits. India is exporting space technology and has launched foreign satellites. Recently, ISRO has embarked on new activities, beyond the primary objectives of the space program outlined decades ago.

<http://www.atip.org/public/atip.reports.04/atip04.022.pdf>

## **Japan**

### **Japan announces follow-up to human genome project**

Japan is launching the Genome Network, a five-year, 15-billion Yen (\$130-million) initiative that will attempt to build on the human genome project and systematically study the function of all human genes. The initiative will collate experimental data on all 30,000 human genes to assemble a library of complementary DNA. It aims at a systematic, comprehensive analysis of the human genome and will focus on how the information in the genome is expressed, how the interaction between genes and the proteins known as transcription factors works.

[http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v429/n6990/full/429332b\\_fs.html](http://www.nature.com/cgi-taf/DynaPage.taf?file=/nature/journal/v429/n6990/full/429332b_fs.html)

## **Impressum**

### **Herausgeber:**

VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH  
Abteilung Grundsatzfragen von Forschung,  
Technologie und Innovation  
Graf-Recke-Str. 84, 40239 Düsseldorf

**Im Auftrag** des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung, Referat 111

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**Erscheinungsweise:** 14-tägig,

online unter  internationale -  
**kooperation**.de

Die Informationen werden zur Wahrung der Aktualität in der Originalsprache wiedergegeben.