



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

**Global**

**US\$60 million to research African climate change**

A new aid-agency partnership is making US\$60 million available over the next five years to fund research into how Africa can best deal with the effects of climate change. The Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Programme, announced 17 May, is a joint venture of Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the UK Department for International Development.

Highlighted areas of research include devising plans for cities and towns to prepare for flooding and disease outbreaks, and research into how communities can conserve water so they are less vulnerable to drought. The IDRC will manage the programme and distribution of funds, overseeing the projects from regional offices in Egypt, Kenya and Senegal, as well its headquarters in Canada. IDRC president Maureen O'Neil emphasised that the programme would be led "by Africans for Africans".

<http://www.scidev.net/News/index.cfm?fuseaction=readNews&itemid=2845>

**Foreign Bias for Location in Partnering with U.S. Biotech Start-ups**

Perhaps in no field more than biotechnology are the roles of alliances, mergers and acquisitions, and licensing so influential in

determining the future success of a start-up firm. If geographic clusters of research activities will serve as the de facto research labs of large biotech companies, then the quality and perceived value of research will be the drivers to ensure the relationship remains solid between the geographic region and its alliance partners - domestic and foreign. Biotech hotspots such as San Diego, San Francisco and Cambridge are serving as very specialized open research labs for pharma giants like Novartis. New research, published in the July 2006 issue of the Journal of Business Venturing, suggests communities also will have to overcome a locational bias in helping local biotech firms cultivate alliances with foreign partners.

[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=598226](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=598226)

**Großbritannien**

**Regierung belohnt Hochschulen, die Innovation fördern**

Die britische Regierung hat am 18. Mai angekündigt, im Rahmen der jüngsten Förderrunde elf Hochschulen für ihre Leistungen im Bereich Innovation mit Preisgeldern in Höhe von 52 Millionen Pfund (76,4 Millionen Euro) auszuzeichnen. Ziel der Innovationspreise ist die Förderung einer stärkeren Verbindung zwischen Wissenschaft und Wirtschaft sowie die Gründung von Technologietransferunternehmen.

Im Rahmen der jüngsten Förderrunde werden außerdem 22 "Zentren des Wissensaustauschs" mit insgesamt über 200 Millionen Pfund unterstützt. Mit den Mitteln wird der auf zehn Jahre angelegte "Science and Innovation Framework" der britischen Regierung unterstützt. 75 Prozent der Gesamtmittel des Innovationsfonds für Hochschulbildung werden unter allen Universitäten verteilt. Die restlichen 25 Prozent werden in Form von Preisgeldern vergeben.

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/reachout/heif/heif3.asp>

## Österreich

### **Bundesgesetz über das Institute of Science and Technology - Austria**

Am 19. Mai 2006 wurde das Bundesgesetz über das Institute of Science and Technology - Austria (ISTA) veröffentlicht. Der Zweck und Auftrag des Instituts werden sein:

- Grundlagenforschung auf Spitzenniveau in Forschungsgebieten, die in Österreich noch unerschlossen sind, zu etablieren;
- herausragende Arbeitsbedingungen und Entfaltungsmöglichkeiten für exzellente Forscherinnen und Forscher anzubieten;
- als Teil einer umfassenden Exzellenzstrategie in Österreich und in Vernetzung mit Exzellenz-Zentren anderer wissenschaftlicher Einrichtungen einen wesentlichen Anschlag für das gesamte Wissenschaftssystem in Österreich zu bringen;
- einen wesentlichen Beitrag zur weiteren Steigerung der Attraktivität des Wissenschafts- und Forschungsstandorts Österreich zu leisten und damit an der Umkehrung des „brain drain“ in einen „brain gain“ mitzuarbeiten;
- durch die Orientierung auf Verwertungsperspektiven und deren Umsetzung durch Spin-offs und im Austausch mit der Wirtschaft einen

Impuls zur Strukturverbesserung und Steigerung der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der Wirtschaft zu setzen.

In der Anfangsphase soll mit etwa 10 unabhängigen Forschergruppen zu je 5 ForscherInnen begonnen werden. Im Endausbau nach 10 Jahren sollen dann zirka 25 bis 30 Gruppen mit insgesamt 300 ForscherInnen eingerichtet sein.

<http://www.bmbwk.gv.at/forschung/recht/ista.xml>

## EU / Europa

### **Europäische Kommission: Europa braucht modernere Universitäten**

Die Europäische Kommission hat Stellung dazu genommen, wie die Universitäten in Europa am besten zu modernisieren sind. Die europäischen Universitäten haben ein enormes Potenzial, das leider aufgrund starrer Strukturen und verschiedener Behinderungen zu einem großen Teil ungenutzt bleibt. Die Ideen der Kommission umfassen alle Aktivitäten der europäischen Universitäten: ihr Ausbildungsangebot, ihre Forschungsaktivitäten und ihr Potenzial als Innovationsmotor.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/592&format=HTML&aged=0&language=DE&guiLanguage=en>

### **Bericht weist auf Mangel an Patenten in Europa hin**

In einem kürzlich veröffentlichten Bericht wird darauf hingewiesen, dass Europa Gefahr läuft, den Anschluss an kommerzielle Erträge der Nanotechnologie zu verpassen, da die Zahl der Patentanmeldungen weiterhin deutlich hinter denen der USA und Asiens zurückbleibt. Der Bericht wurde in derselben Woche veröffentlicht, in der die Prüfer des Europäischen Patentamts (EPA) aufgrund von Arbeitsüberlastung in den Streik getreten sind.

[http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=DE\\_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=25629&DOC=10&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1147693345102](http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=DE_NEWS&ACTION=D&RCN=25629&DOC=10&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=1147693345102)

**USA****House Committee on Science Introduces Three Bills Focusing on Competitiveness, Education**

Republican members of the House Committee on Science introduced three bills designed to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness by improving math and science education and research. The bills are:

- The *Science and Mathematics Education for Competitiveness Act* emphasizes the importance of bolstering undergraduate math and science education programs, according to the House Committee on Science.
- The *Early Career Research Act* would authorize NSF and DOE's Office of Science to provide grants to early career researchers and establish innovative research programs.
- The *Research for Competitiveness Act* would authorize NSF and DOE to provide grants to early career researchers to conduct high-risk, high-return research in areas relevant to industry. Under the bill, NSF and DOE would offer \$50,000 grants for up to five years, and provide an additional \$50,000 to researchers who raise one-to-one matching funds from private industry.

The Task Force on the Future of American Innovation praised the House Committee for introducing legislation to "strengthen the nation's competitiveness by improving science and math education and encouraging careers in science-related fields." According to the task force, the measures introduced complement the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI), which is currently in the FY 07 appropriations process.

<http://www.house.gov/science/press/109/109-259.htm>

**A Path Forward: Charting the Course for Elementary Particle Physics**

An important strategy report has been released by the Committee on Elementary Particle Physics in the 21st Century of the National Research Council. The report emphasizes the importance of strategic international partnerships. It declares "particle physics should evolve into a truly global collaboration that would enable the particle physics community to leverage its resources, prevent duplication of effort, and maximize opportunities for particle physicists throughout the world." As noted in another of these principles, "In today's world, leadership in the sciences does not mean singular dominance. Rather, leadership is characterized by taking initiatives on the scientific frontier, accepting risks, and catalyzing partnerships with colleagues both at home and abroad."

To advance the field and to sustain U.S. leadership in the field, the committee recommends six action items for the next fifteen years. A major centerpiece of this strategy is the construction of the International Linear Collider (ILC) which would compliment discoveries that are expected to be made at CERN's LHC which will become operational in 2007. The proposed ILC would be a 500 GeV electron-positron collider which could eventually be increased to 1 TeV.

<http://www.aip.org/fyi/2006/064.html>  
<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11641.html>

**Further Improvements Needed in Visa Processing**

Last month's hearing of the House Committee on Government Reform found general agreement that visa application processing has steadily improved since the initial implementation of post-9/11 procedures, but recognition that additional improvements are still needed. Kevin Schofield of Microsoft Research told the committee "the obstacles that face business visitors, students, and talented workers

seeking to travel to the United States pose a problem of serious and damaging proportions." Schofield fears that "the world's best and brightest students may ultimately decide that the difficulties of studying in the United States outweigh the benefits." He cited the current 163 day wait for a personal interview in Chennai, India for a temporary visa to come to the United States.

<http://www.aip.org/fyi/2006/067.html>

### House Passes Bill to Encourage Hydrogen Fuel Breakthroughs

The House of Representatives has passed a bill to encourage advances in hydrogen fuel research and development. "The H-Prize Act is designed to provide results-based financial incentives to harness the creative, can-do spirit of Americans in the quest to propel us over some of the technological barriers currently standing in the way of a hydrogen economy," explained House Research Subcommittee Chairman Bob Inglis Inglis. The H-Prize bill would authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to award competitive prizes in three categories, as follows: Technological Advancements, Prototypes, and Transformational Technologies.

<http://www.aip.org/gov/>

## Japan

### 2005 Survey on Research and Development in Japan: Increase in Expenditures for Five Consecutive Years

In December 2005 the Statistics Bureau of Japan's Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) published a report on research and development (R&D) in Japan based on the survey conducted on March 31, 2005. The total R&D expenditures for JFY2004 in Japan were Yen 16,937.6 billion (ca. \$144.8 billion), a 0.8 percent increase from the previous year, and a consecutive increase in the past five years. The ratio of R&D expenditures

against GDP was 3.35 percent, the same percentage as in the previous two years. This rate has remained the highest in history for three consecutive years.

<http://www.nsfokyo.org/rm06-04.pdf>

### Japan's Third S&T Basic Plan and its Priority Technologies

Following the First and Second S&T Basic Plans, the Japanese Government released its Third S&T Basic Plan on March 22, 2006, to cover S&T policies during JFY 2006-2010. The points are described below. The Plan's primary mission is to complete the items not finished in the first and second plans. The Government will invest Yen 25 trillion (\$214 billion) during the five years, which is one percent of GDP, on an assumption that the nominal GDP growth rate is 3.1 percent during the period. Priority areas are: Life Science, Information Technology, Environment, Nanotechnology/materials; Promotion areas are: Energy, Manufacturing Technologies, Social Infrastructure, Frontier

<http://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/english/basic>

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