



April 2015

# Newsflash

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## Dear Reader

Welcome to the April newsflash of the Innovation Society. We wish you an inspiring reading and we are looking forward to receiving your feedback!

Kind regards  
The Innovation Society

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## Annotations by the Innovation Society

### Regulation of Nanomaterials

Apart from proposing a rule on the reporting and recordkeeping for nanomaterials (s. below), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has responded to a suit filed by NGOs concerning the regulation of nanosilver (we reported). EPA records that products containing nanosilver will not be treated as pesticides automatically. Further, EPA has prohibited the sale of some more products containing nanomaterials due to unjustified health claims.

### Chances and Risks of Nanomaterials

The US National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI) has published reports on meetings about the state of commercialization of CNTs and about the state of environment, health and safety research on nanomaterials. Both documents emphasize needs for further actions. Concerning CNTs, the need for action is mainly about overcoming technical obstacles to the realization of their enormous potential.

## Nanomaterials and Insurances (Video)



In a short video clip on the results of the nanotechnology liability forum in Cologne speakers and participants from the insurance industry and the occupational health and safety sector speak about nanomaterials and their importance for insurances. [Read more](#)

## SCENIHR lists applications of nanotechnology in medicine and graphene among emerging risk issues



The European Commission Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) addressed a statement about emerging health or environmental risks to the European Commission (EC). The members of the SCENIHR demand for a consistent report of the risk assessment process according to certain criteria. [Read more](#)

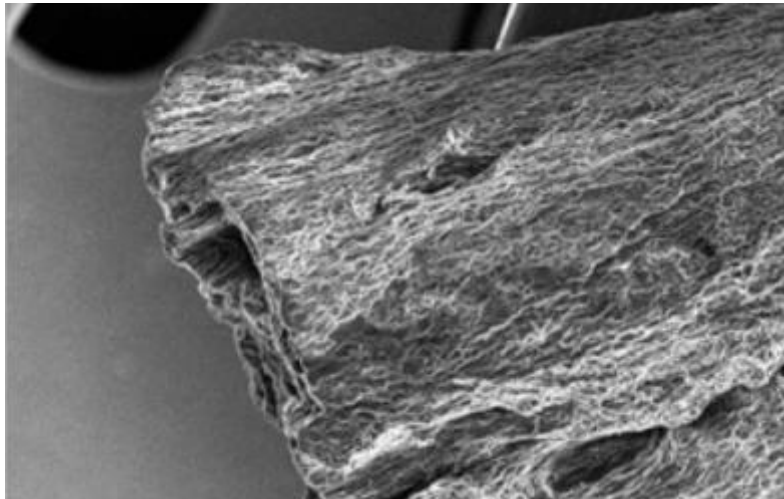
## Natural Nanocrystals Shown to Strengthen Concrete



Cellulose nanocrystals derived from industrial byproducts have been shown to increase the strength of concrete, representing a potential renewable additive to improve the ubiquitous construction material.

[Read more](#)

## From Tobacco to Cyberwood



Scientists from ETH Zurich have developed a thermometer which is at least 100 times more sensitive than previous temperature sensors. It consists of a bio-synthetic hybrid material of tobacco cells and nanotubes.

[Read more](#)

## Proposed Reporting and Recordkeeping for Nanomaterials in the U.S.



On March 25, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed one-time reporting and recordkeeping requirements for nanoscale materials. While some shareholders consider the proposed rule overdue, it is almost certain that during the 90 day public comment period, it will also receive a lot of comments due to its potential impact. [Read more](#)

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