



the  
innovation  
society

February 2015

**Newsflash**

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## Dear Reader

Welcome to the February 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

## Annotations by the Innovation Society

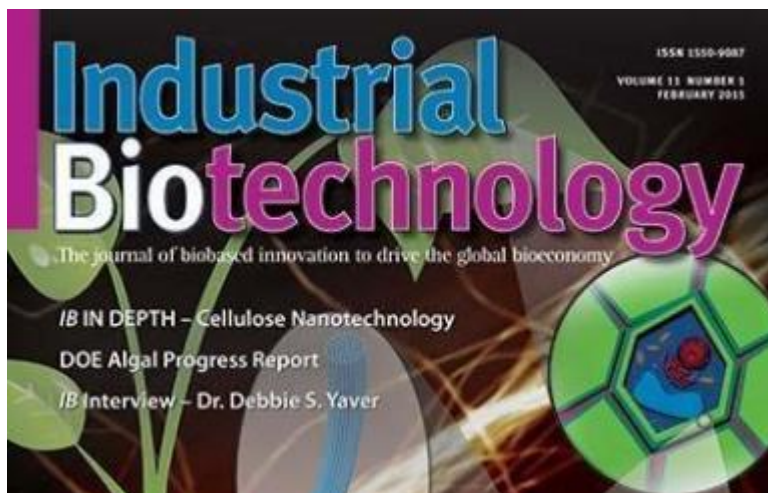
### Regulation of nanomaterials

European NGOs criticise that the „Working Conclusions“ of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on transparency measures for nanomaterials are „biased towards the industry's interests“. The discussion on the implementation of a European nanoregister will thus continue. The budget request of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) includes the establishment of the „Center for Consumer Product Applications and Safety Implications of Nanotechnology“ (CPASION). Among others, the center shall develop methods to identify and characterise nanomaterials in consumer products.

### Chances and risks of nanomaterials

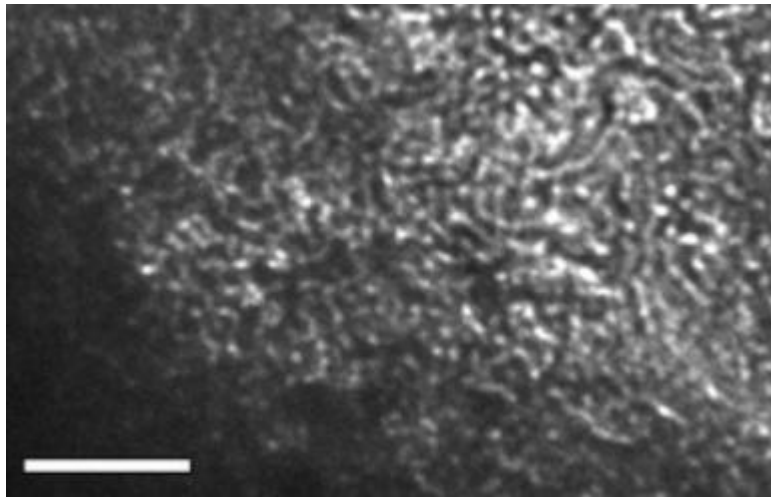
Good news on fullerenes: The incorporation of fullerenes into the insulation of cables might curtail energy losses during power transmission. Fullerenes could also be used in the selective extraction of metals from acid mine drainage (s. below). The SAFERPROTEX project proves that nanotechnologies may also play a major role in the development of high-tech protective clothes for the highest requirements.

## Potential Toxicity of Cellulose Nanocrystals Examined



Novel nanomaterials derived from cellulose have many promising industrial applications, are biobased and biodegradable, and can be produced at relatively low cost. Their potential toxicity—whether ingested, inhaled, on contact with the skin, or on exposure to cells within the body—is a topic of intense discussion. [Read more](#)

## Binding Bad: Buckyballs Offer Environmental Benefits



Treated buckyballs not only remove valuable but potentially toxic metal particles from water and other liquids, but also reserve them for future use, according to scientists at Rice University. [Read more](#)



## Best Practice Guide for Packaging Industries

The EU project “NanoSafePack” published a novel “Best Practice Guide for the Safe Handling and Use of Nanoparticles in Packaging Industries”. It is designed to support those working with nanomaterials at all stages in the development of packaging products. [Read more](#)

## Fullerenes May Contribute to Sustainable Energy Supply



Researchers at Chalmers University of Technology have discovered that the insulation plastic used in high-voltage cables can withstand a 26 per cent higher voltage if nanometer-sized carbon balls are added. This could result in enormous efficiency gains in the power grids of the future, which are needed to achieve a sustainable energy system. [Read more](#)

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