



the
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Newsflash

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Dear Reader

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

With the best wishes for the year 2015 and kind regards
The Innovation Society

Annotations by the Innovation Society

Regulation of nanomaterials

Several NGOs have filed suit against the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its failure to respond to a petition (submitted in 2008) on the regulation of products containing nanosilver. The Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) of the European Commission has published its final opinion on potential health effects of nanomaterials used in medical devices.

Chances and risks of nanomaterials

A research group at EPF Lausanne has developed a Cantilever which is able to detect living cells through motion. In the future, it might even be used to detect extraterrestrial life. The authors of an *in vitro* study surmise that silicon dioxide nanoparticles might promote the development of atherosclerosis, and demand more research on the subject. For now, the results cannot be extrapolated to humans.

Interpellation on Insufficient Nanotoxicology Studies



A study, published last October by the EMPA, on the quality of nanotoxicology studies received a lot of attention: Several Swiss newspapers touched on the subject and the National Councillor Maya Graf submitted an interpellation to the Swiss Federal Council together with 11 cosignatories. [Read more](#)

Are Quantum Dot TVs Actually Better for the Environment?



"The future is bright, the future is ... quantum dot televisions", 'The Conversation' reported on January 6th. The technology is providing manufacturers with a cheap and efficient way of producing the next generation of brilliant, high-definition TV screens. But what about its impacts on the environment? [Read more](#)

Swiss Federal Council to Prolong Action Plan for Nanomaterials



The Swiss Federal Council intends to prolong the Action plan for Synthetic Nanomaterials until 2019. The Federal Council issued a report, analysing the implementation of the action plan to date and defining goals for the coming years. [Read more](#)

What Consumers Expect from Nano-Food



New research from North Carolina State University and the University of Minnesota shows that the majority of consumers will accept the presence of nanotechnology or genetic modification (GM) technology in foods – but only if the technology enhances the nutrition or improves the safety of the food. [Read more](#)



New Material Makes Water and Oil Roll off

Car finish, to which no dirt particles adhere, house fronts, from which graffiti paints roll off – the material “fluoropore” might make all of this possible. Both water and oil droplets roll off this new class of highly fluorinated super-repellent polymers. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has now decided to fund its development with EUR 2.85 million. Fundamental research in this area is aimed at making use of this new type of material for universal protective coatings. [Read more](#)

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