



the
innovation
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Newsflash

Issues

[Annotations by the
Innovation Society](#)

[8th Int. Nano-
Authorities Dialogue](#)

[Nano regulation in
the EU](#)

[Nanocellulose to
combat oil pollution](#)

[Graphene oxide
mobile in water](#)

[Nanoparticles
against forgery](#)

[Award for the Nano-
Platform](#)

Dear reader,

Welcome to the May 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

Concerning nano-regulation in the EU, an increase in activity has been observed (see article below) - the most prominent example being the works regarding transparency measures for nanomaterials on the market by the European Commission. A new ISO Technical Report (**16197:2014**) dedicated to toxicological screening methods for nanomaterials has been published.

Chances and risks of nanomaterials

Good news are reported from the Swiss Federal Institute of Materials Science & Technology (EMPA), where researchers developed an oil-combating sponge made of nanocellulose (see article below).

A medical **study** elucidated the case of a female chemist who suffered allergic reactions after workplace exposure to nickel nanoparticles. In our opinion, the issue of concern is that, apparently, the employee was handling these powdery nanomaterials without using PPE or technical measures for

exposure mitigation. This proves the need for (but also the current lack of) training on adequate health & safety measures for employees who handle nanomaterials.

8th Int. Nano-Authorities Dialogue held in Berlin



At the invitation of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), delegates of ministries, authorities and research institutes met in Berlin on May 14 and 15 to discuss the topic "nanomaterials and the environment". The International Nano-Authorities Dialogue is held annually and takes place in one of the participating German-speaking countries. It is organised and moderated by the Innovation Society, St. Gallen. [**Read more**](#)

Lively activity concerning nano-regulation in the EU



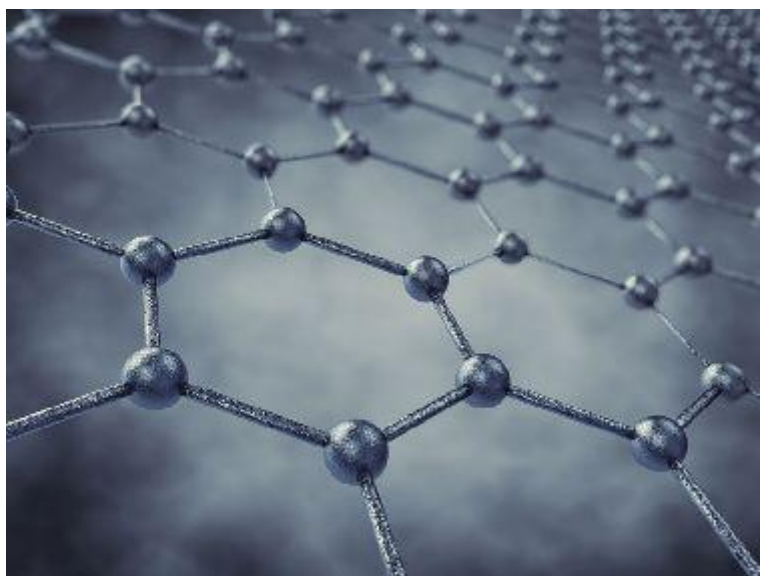
Various activities concerning the regulation of nanomaterials in the European Union have been reported within the last few days. Of particular interest are the activities of the European Commission regarding transparency measures for nanomaterials on the market and a study by the Joint Research Centre (JRC). [Read more](#)

Nanocellulose to remediate oil pollution



Nanocellulose sponges for oil remediation are another example of the vast range of applications offered by nanocellulose. Developed at EMPA - the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science & Technology - the sponges absorb great quantities of oil while floating on water. The hydrophobic sponges consist of silylated nanocellulose. They can be made from pulp, straw or recycled paper. [Read more](#)

Graphene oxide highly mobile in water



A new study confirms that graphene oxide can be highly mobile in water bodies. Researchers investigated the mobility of graphene oxide in various types of waters. The study also confirms the results of a previous study, which had shown that graphene oxide nanoparticles can remain suspended for weeks. Given the toxicity of graphene (oxide), this could lead to adverse effects if released to the environment. [Read more](#)

Nanoparticles to fight forgery



Tiny amounts of DNA-containing magnetic nanoparticles could be enough to render foodstuff unforgeable. The particles act as a sort of invisible tag and could enable the determination of adulteration of olive oil, for instance. Natural genetic material could be coated with silica and iron oxide, which are already

permitted as food additives. [Read more](#)

Nano-Platform awarded "Best of 2014" Certificate



The Nano-Platform "Safe Handling of Nanomaterials" of the German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV) has recently been awarded the "Best of 2014" Certificate at the IT-Innovation prize of the "Initiative Mittelstand". Competing in the category "E-Learning", the platform convinced the jury and thus forms part of the best IT solutions among the 5000 applications submitted. The platform was developed by the Innovation Society. [Read more](#)

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