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Dear reader,

Welcome to the November 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

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) now lists Carbon Black on its community rolling action plan (CoRAP) for substance evaluation. Carbon Black shall be evaluated by the French agency ANSES until 2018.

After several debates, a new 'novel foods' regulation has been approved in the European Union. The regulation also covers nanomaterials, which have to be tested with up-to-date methods and require the authorisation of the food agency (EFSA).

Chances and risks of nanomaterials

OECD's Working Party on Resource Productivity and Waste has published several documents on safety aspects of nano-containing waste. The working party recommends investigating the impact of the application of nano-containing sludge to agricultural land and of leaching of nanomaterials from sub-standard landfills, for instance.

Good news from material scientists: Halloysite, a naturally occurring and biocompatible nanomaterial, has been shown to offer promising potential. It could serve as a delivery system for molecules such as enzymes or DNA.

Do Cars Emit Carbon Nanotubes?



Cars appear to produce carbon nanotube-like fibers, and some of the evidence has been found in human lungs. Researchers have detected the presence of such fibers in cells extracted from the airways of children. Similar nanotubes were also found in the exhaust of cars. Given that the fibers were present in all of the (few) samples examined, the general population might be exposed, too. However, exposure was not quantified in the course of the study, and no conclusions can be drawn with regard to potential effects. [Read more](#)

Use of Nanotechnologies in Food



Against the background of the increasing spread of food products containing nanomaterials, the Center for Food Safety (CFS) built a new information platform for consumers. [Read more](#)

Nanomaterials in Paints



The latest article of the information platform 'DaNa' discusses various aspects of nanoparticles in paints, such as: types of nanomaterials used in paints, effects of nanomaterials in paints, release behaviour, as well as life cycle assessment.

[Read more](#)

Nano Zinc Oxide to Fight Infections of Implants



Researchers from the University of Michigan found that an ingredient applied in sunscreens (zinc oxide) can be used as an effective antibacterial coating for implants such as replacement joints and pacemakers. About one million implanted medical devices are infected each year with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and other bacterial species. Layering such devices with zinc oxide severely disrupts the growth of MRSA. Thus, antibiotic treatments or even surgically replacements of implants might be superseded soon. [Read more](#)

Contact:

Die Innovationsgesellschaft mbH
Lerchenfeldstr. 5
St.Gallen 9014
Switzerland

[Add us to your address book](#)

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