

Trade press conference

12 p.m., Wednesday, 28 March 2007

Exhibition Centre Nuremberg, CCN Ost, level 1, Hongkong room

Statement by Prof. Wolfgang Peukert

Chair of Particle Technology

University of Erlangen

- The spoken word prevails -

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of NürnbergMesse, GVC in the Processnet and VDI, I would like to sincerely welcome you to our press conference for PARTEC, which takes place in Nürnberg every three years.

Who in the community knows the importance and variety of particle technology? Who knows that the paint on the wall, the taste of chocolate and the strength of Schumacher's rain tyres are decisively determined by particles? Who knows what nanotechnology has to do with particle technology? Can anyone among you, dear representatives of the press, name 3 products that have brought you into contact with nanoparticles today?

These questions concern an important aspect of particle technology: Particles are contained in almost all products. There are global players in the pharmaceutical industry who sell more than 90 % of their products in disperse form. 80 % of all chemical industry products either come onto the market in disperse form or came into contact with particles along their production path. Approx. 30 % of the manufacturing costs of the most important building material in this lovely new congress centre, the cement, which is also a product of particle technology, are due to the size reduction of the cement. Altogether approx. 3 – 5 % of electrically produced energy is spent on size reduction of powders. The experts among you see quite considerable potentials for reducing CO₂ exchange here. A huge chance especially for small and medium enterprises to score on the world markets. I could go on with these examples, but I would now like to specifically mention the PARTEC Congress, the POWTECH & TechnoPharm exhibitions and the many accompanying events. When you stroll round POWTECH & TechnoPharm, you will notice that the companies are certainly taking advantage of these chances. German particle technology is world class, in both the industrial and academic areas.

The PARTEC scientific congress together with the POWTECH & TechnoPharm exhibitions is unique throughout the world in its form and certainly also the biggest event of this kind. The 437 scientific papers at this congress attract participants from all over the world: 4 continents are represented and the 530 participants come from 34 countries. One key element of PARTEC is therefore the opportunity for meeting people, which we have made the motto for PARTEC 2007:

The 3 B business:

- Building bridges between the disciplines
- Building bridges between industry and academia
- Building bridges between nations

This year's PARTEC has the following new features: tandem presentations given jointly by speakers from industry and university and the integration of many different fields of specialization, which have not yet engaged in any scientific exchange in this form. These include colloid sciences with the Aerosol Society, material sciences with the physics of granular matter, pharmaceutical technology with nanotechnology, and modelling and simulation with food technology. Especially interesting for me as process engineer is the opening up of many new fields, which become clear for the first time in this form at PARTEC: printable electronics and photonics on the basis of nanoparticles, nanotechnology in medical diagnostics and therapy and catalytic converters of nanoparticles. We have tackled this intensive discussion on the toxicology of nanoparticles and have included it in the programme.

But not only totally new aspects push their way to the fore; the so-called old and classic processes will also very much increase their importance again. The explosion of gross prices on the international markets is only one example that comes to mind. You probably ask what this has to do with particle technology and PARTEC: Mineral processing technology, namely the processing of raw materials like metals, semiconductors etc. from "stones and dirt" extracted by mining, has been virtually abolished in Germany. Until recently, these were commodities whose value creation is no longer worthwhile nowadays. For new products such as fuel cells or flexible displays, special metals and metal compounds are required whose availability is simply limited in view of the forecast demand. A very positive future is therefore also forecast for these "classic" processes.

All this will be intensively discussed among the participants.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

PARTEC is perhaps the most important forum of this kind in the world. Besides its scientific findings, it contributes very much towards exchange and contact between the disciplines, between university and industry and not least between people. In this spirit, I hope you will discover many interesting findings at PARTEC, see the new products at POWTECH & TechnoPharm and allow yourself to be inspired by this technology.

Thank you for your attention!