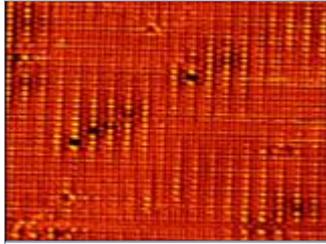


Nano Forum 2004 - 2011



Mission

The Austrian NANO Forum was the national platform and part of the Austrian NANO Initiative. It addressed science, represented by universities, non-university research institutions, universities of applied sciences and technical high schools, as well as enterprises, societies and associations, networks relevant to nano, finance companies and other multipliers and strategic partners in Austria.

The forum focused on increased interaction between the NANO players from science, industry, societies, the public sector and policy. The objective was to generate new partnerships and project ideas, in order to support the emergence of new technologies, products and services, and thus to apply them profitably economically.

In addition to publicising Austrian NANO competencies and making them accessible successfully, the Austrian NANO Forum was concerned with supporting efficient and targeted communication, both between the NANO players in Austria and with international NANO experts and fora. In addition, the NANO Forum acted as the mouthpiece of the Austrian NANO players. The decision-makers of the Federal state, the Federal provinces and the political decision-makers perceived the NANO players' position and communicated it in the relevant bodies.

Objectives

The Austrian NANO Forum focused on the following objectives ...

- intensified and new interaction between disciplines relevant to NANO and between science and industry.
- improving communication between enterprises and science, and creating new ideas.
- result-oriented networking at regional, national and/or international level, in particular with a view to other future projects within the framework of the Austrian NANO Initiative and in international consortia, such as for instance in the EU Framework Programme. Intensified networking activities with the new and future member states of the EU.
- Creating new competencies and know-how by transferring and exchanging know-how between industry and science through targeted networking activities in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the network partners.

Strategy

The interests of the **NANO players** were represented by bringing them to bear actively in RTD policy, industry and society. In addition, the analysis of social and ethical issues was an important aspect and served the preparation of coordinated papers.

The **Austrian NANO Forum** was the national information and communication platform of all NANO players in Austria. It was in charge of establishing and maintaining contacts with other networks and organisations. The public relations (press relations, information material etc.) were taken care of by the NANO Forum in coordination with the NANO players. The existing institutions in Austria were invited to be active in building up the platform and defining important steps.

The NANO Forum carries out coordination and cooperation activities by means of events where players got to know each other, by workshops and other activities suitable for the coordination of RTD tasks, by activities for the dissemination of RTD results and support for their implementation, or by finding cooperation partners (e.g. by means of a members data base). Some of these activities were also carried out in cooperation with other NANO networks and other relevant institutions.

The NANO Forum acted as an interface between the special NANO disciplines. By virtue of knowing the specific requirements in the disciplines relevant to nano, the NANO Forum submitted suggestions for further measures within the framework of the Austrian NANO Initiative. In addition, the NANO Forum also acted as an information broker for interested parties. Another task of the NANO Forum was to provide support for the implementation and dissemination of project results, above all by finding suitable partners. Furthermore, the active acquisition of new members, above all from industry, was an important element in the building of networks.

The FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency was responsible for implementing the Austrian NANO Forum, in cooperation with the societies, networks, institutions and lobbies relevant to nano in Austria.

The FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency also coordinated the discussion process for establishing the Forum.

In accordance with the mission, objectives and the composition of the partner organisations, the interests of the universities, the non-university research institutions, the Academy of Sciences as well as the enterprises were also attended to. The FFG – Austrian Research Promotion Agency ensured a continuous enlargement of the partner portfolio.

