

NANOCYL: PARTICIPATION IN THE NANOTOX PROJECT

Sambreville, Belgium, 5 July 2005 – *Nanocyl, one of the world's main producers of nanotubes, participates in the Nanotox project. This Specific Support Action is funded by the European Commission and aimed at providing an investigative support for the elucidation of the toxicological impact of nanoparticles on human health and the environment. Nanotox runs from March 2005 to February 2007, is co-ordinated by Chalex Research and involves important industry and university partners.*

Although man has been exposed to airborne nanoparticles throughout his evolutionary stages, this exposure has increased dramatically over the last century due to anthropogenic sources; the rapidly growing field of nanotechnology is said to become yet another source through inhalation, ingestion, skin uptake and injection of engineered nanomaterials.

Because of this assumption, public organisations and nanotechnology companies across Europe are under pressure to improve the safety of nanoparticles. The Nanotox project (<http://www.impart-nanotox.org/>) is aimed at assessing the impact of nanoparticles on human health and the environment.

Nanotox is funded by the European Commission and is co-ordinated by UK-based Chalex Research, a private organisation that undertook the entire process from the EC research proposal development to managing the project. Nanocyl's industrial partner is CMP Cientifica. The Universities of Manchester and Helsinki act as key university partners.

The various partners in Nanotox will document potential methods of dispersal and contamination by nanoparticles and agglomerated nanocrystals. Nanotox will also address the physical and chemical properties of different types of nanoparticles, the manufacturing and use, the effects on human health, environmental impacts, animal toxicology, mutagenicity/genotoxicity, standards for safe use, etc.

The principal outputs of NANOTOX will be the dissemination of research results via the Nanoforum and Nanotox websites, a toxicology literature review on the dispersal methods and the causes of contamination by nanoparticles, expert group meeting, a legislation workshop (to assess current national and international standards, deontological issues, policies and codes of practice), an efficient mapping of current R&D activities in Europe, a dissemination workshop and a set of guidelines and recommendations of best practice for the safe production and use of nanoparticles.

Dr. Frédéric Luizi, who is representing Nanocyl in the Nanotox Consortium adds: “The Nanotox research results will undoubtedly lead to a better understanding of and a better interaction between European researchers in this field, and to an increased knowledge of the potential effects nanoparticles might have on human health and the environment. Legislators, regulators and policymakers will be aided by the improved guidelines and recommendations.”

Francis Massin, Managing Director of Nanocyl, adds ‘I am very pleased that we have the opportunity to participate in this project, as understanding and assessing the effect of nanoparticles on human health and the environment should be an automatic reflex and concern for all nanoparticles producers around the world. It is part of our commitment to the responsible management of our chemicals and in line with the principles of Responsible Care[®].’”

About Nanocyl

Nanocyl is a spin-off company, founded in February 2002, emerged from the Universities of Namur and Liège (Belgium) and is supported by individual and institutional investors. The purpose of Nanocyl is to develop new business for the supply of specialty carbon nanotubes based on an existing and expanding portfolio of intellectual property. Nanocyl is one of the first companies to be established in Europe for the commercial supply of this family of novel material. Currently, pilot production is dedicated to associated laboratories and selected industrial partners. Nanocyl is investing in production equipment, laboratories and process development at its facility in order to supply commercial quantities of carbon nanotubes. For more information, please visit the company's website at www.nanocyl.com