

## Press Release

# Launch of Nanotechnology Masters Recognition Scheme

17<sup>th</sup> January 2007

Nanotechnology is widely predicted to affect over a trillion dollars of products within the next 5 to 10 years. However new training and skills are required, and many Universities are now offering Masters Courses in nanotechnology – each often with a different emphasis. Until now it has been difficult for prospective students and industrial employers to compare what each course offers in terms of competences.

The Institute of Nanotechnology, in collaboration with a consortium of course-providing academics and industry representatives, has addressed this information gap by creating an online Nanotechnology Masters Course Recognition Scheme. A committee, chaired by Dr. Steffi Friedrichs, has directed the development of the Scheme, which:

- Enables an online comparison of multi-disciplinary content of courses.
- Allows a prospective student to choose the correct course based on their skills and future aspirations.
- Offers course providers the opportunity to reach out to global talent
- Assists employers in understanding the acquired competences of course graduates, in relation to their business needs.

According to Dr Friedrichs “ The IoN Recognition Scheme provides a crucial tool for supporting the UK’s workforce in this rapidly advancing sector of science & technology. It offers a concise directory of Nanotechnology Master’s Programmes which will achieve two objectives – it will be easier for students to identify the best training opportunity to suit their background and needs; and companies, seeking professional development for their staff.”

Ottilia Saxl, CEO of the Institute of Nanotechnology stresses, “It has been important to us to create a Masters Course recognition scheme that enables prospective students to make informed choices, and we are delighted to have it implemented by a team of experienced Nano Masters Course coordinators, under the Chairmanship of Dr Steffi Friedrichs and her deputy, Dr Richard Forbes.”

UK Universities already taking advantage of the Recognition Scheme to promote their courses include: Universities involved with the Recognition Scheme include: Surrey University, Lancaster University, University of Sheffield, Leeds University, Cranfield University, University of Warwick, University of Liverpool, Cardiff University, University of Oxford, Northumbria University, University College London, University of Wales Swansea, and Queen Mary University of London.

The initiative, originally conceived for supporting education and training needs in the UK, has been extended recently to European institutions. It now includes TU Delft and University of Leiden (Netherlands), KU Leuven (Belgium), Chalmers University of Technology (Sweden), Technische Universitat Dresden (Germany), and University of Padova and the University Ca’ Foscari of Venezia and University of Verona (Italy). The technical development for the European website is underway and will be launched in early February.

Industry bodies such as The European Nanotechnology Trade Alliance (ENTA) and the Nanotechnology Industry Association (NIA) have endorsed the recognition scheme on behalf of their members. Del Stark, CEO of ENTA said, “The scheme will not only give employers a dynamic and valuable tool to identify competencies for hiring future nanotechnology graduates but will also enables students to readily identify the courses most suited to their needs and aspirations.”

NIA representative Morris Roseman commented, “The NIA can see the benefit to industry of the IoN Nanotechnology Post Graduate Course Recognition Scheme. The Scheme's interrogative website will enable industry to select candidates for interview partially on the basis of subject matter studied, enabling a closer fit to the employers' requirements.”

The scheme will be launched on the 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2007 at the Royal Society in London at 17.30, followed by a reception. Contact Kshitij Aditeya Singh (“Tij”) for further information, email: [kshitij.singh@nano.org.uk](mailto:kshitij.singh@nano.org.uk) Tel: 0141 330 8777. Find out more at [www.nano.or.uk/nanomasters](http://www.nano.or.uk/nanomasters)

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## **Note for editors**

### **About the Institute of Nanotechnology**

The Institute of Nanotechnology (IoN) is Europe’s leading nanotechnology information service provider. It acts as a focus for all activity at the nanoscale, providing up-to-the minute reports for business, financial and government organizations whilst running leading-edge conferences for scientists, investors and entrepreneurs. A membership organization, IoN members also gain access to specially commissioned nanotechnology briefings and analyses. Find out more at <http://www.nano.org.uk>

### **About The Technology Partnership**

The Technology Partnership is a consultancy and hands on implementer of new business strategy with a strong focus on technology and product development. TTP has extensive laboratory and pre-production manufacturing creating new business based on advances in technology. Find out more at: <http://www.ttp.com>

### **European Nanotechnology Trade Alliance**

European Nanotechnology Trade Alliance, ENTA represents the interests of nanotechnology businesses across Europe. It also acts to bridge the gap between industry, governments, science, and importantly, the public. Its aim is to promote the benefits of nanotechnology, while supporting all actions that ensure new nanotechnologies are developed in a safe and responsible manner. Find out more at: <http://www.euronanotrade.com>

### **NIA**

The Nanotechnology Industries Association (NIA) promotes the responsible use of nanotechnology and raises awareness of its many applications among key audiences including the media, government, NGOs and other stakeholders. NIA is open to UK industrial companies who are involved in the development, production or exploitation of nanotechnologies and is supported by the DTI. Find out more at <http://www.nanotechia.co.uk/>

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