



11th German-International
Symposium on Nanostructures
March 1-3, 2020
Wenden/Olpe, Germany



address from

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for the

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Modern societies over this world share a positive attitude towards progress in harmony with creation and the well-being of man. Innovative spirit, education and talent for organization, trust in truth and rational logic, as well as the orientation to values are essential cornerstones.

Marriage and family, democracy, the unrestrained desire for freedom and self-determination were and are crucial driving forces in the search for sustainable fulfillment, particularly in the German society, characterized by Western-European values and Christianity.

Naturally, a well-functioning society always includes borders and an organization that organizes, secures and protects life within these boundaries. The state is nothing but the organization of the mandatory agreements of its citizens. In this respect, the state has neither religious nor primarily any charitable tasks, particularly not beyond its national borders.

The state shall also provide the general conditions that enable its citizens to undertake positive progress and participate in it. The freedom of research and teaching in that is just as important as e. g. a system of taxes and duties that can be considered as fair and appropriate. Increased prohibitions on thinking and saying as well as often ideologically driven apocalyptic scenarios are causing concerns.

However, while hunting for fulfillment in a highly technical society, we must not forget our roots. A society without children and intact families cannot reproduce itself and will not survive. Again, the state is in demand – in particular in a country with low birth rates, such as Germany.

Likewise, in a society of relative prosperity, we must not forget where this prosperity, which of course includes a healthy and therefore clean environment, is arising from. This always includes a manufacturing industry. Without, no such state and no such nation could operate independently.

In addition to an absolutely reliable energy supply, manufacturing industry primarily requires materials. Those were most frequently responsible in industrial history, for bringing technology forward. During recent decades, new materials with partly completely unexpected properties allowed quantum leaps e. g. in communication, transportation, medicine and environmental technology. The potential for the

future seems to be continuously immense, and therefore it is of fundamental importance for every industrial nation, to position itself as strong as possible. This at the same time applies to material savings and recycling, as well as for advanced materials for completely new applications.

Earlier, this has been microtechnology, today it's nanotechnology and tomorrow, innovation and progress will not end. For this we need free thinking and free spirits.

However, if we load research and teaching, and in particular the training of young people with ideological burdens, we are sawing off the branch of progress. The same applies to every kind of economic development. Otherwise, we end up in the lingering sickness of stateowned enterprises.

A positive exchange of the innovation drivers beyond national borders is helpful and even necessary, e. g. in order to accelerate development and capture different perspectives from around the world. Collaborative successful work should then serve the well-being of all.

Therefore, I am very much pleased, that since 2008, and now already for the 11th time, representatives from industry and scientists from all over the world are meeting on the occasion of the Nanostructure Symposium. This time again at Sauerland, now and here in March 2020 for the first time in the Olpe City Hall. And I wish you all a successful brainstorming and many good ideas, to the benefit of all of us, ideally even to the benefit of the entire creation. Let's keep working together and across nations for a bright future, based on the joint platform of shared values.

sig. Alexander Mitsch