



*Message of Greeting*  
by **Brigitte Zypries**  
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**for the 2017 Nano Symposium**

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Innovation and technology are changing the world and everyone's lives. Many things that used to sound very futuristic have become part of our daily life. And there is a possibility that much of it will soon be overtaken by even newer developments.

If we want to remain competitive, and if we want to create growth, prosperity and jobs in the long term, we need to invest in research, innovation, and in training skilled professionals.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy is fostering Germany's innovation capacity by creating a positive environment for investment, and by providing funding programmes that are targeted to the needs of the market.

We want Germany to continue to be a global leader on innovation and future technologies, not only today, but well into the future.

This April, I presented an innovation agenda that focuses on technology-neutral funding. This will give companies the freedom they need to decide what technologies they want to invest in.

We also want to place a stronger focus on strategic sectors and forward-looking technologies. These include micro-electronics, nanomaterials, artificial intelligence, biotechnology and quantum technology.

We need bright minds and people who think out of the box – people who are creative and full of ideas that will carry this country to success. This also means bringing in talent from outside Germany. Only if people from around the world work together can we achieve the best results.

The motto of the International Symposium on Nanostructures is: How can I do more with less material.

The Federal Government and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy have been supporting this symposium – which was first held ten years ago – for many years.

The meeting is truly international. At last year's symposium, which was held in the town hall of Wenden in Germany, a total of 18 nations took part.

The fact that there is so much interest in this conference from around the globe shows that modern materials and strategies for the development of sustainable materials and products are the key to future competitiveness.

I wish you the best of success for the symposium, and hope that your discussions will be fruitful, and that you will take away many new ideas and some good inspiration.

Ase Björke Zyparis