



5th German-Japanese | 5th International  
Symposium on Nanostructures

*March 4-6, 2012  
Wenden/Olpe, Germany*



Federal Ministry  
of Economics  
and Technology



address by

**Philipp Rösler**

**Federal Minister of Economics and Technology**

for the

**5th German-Japanese | 5th International Symposium on Nanostructures**

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Findings from nanotechnology research impact directly on a variety of scientific fields in the natural sciences, medicine and materials science. Thanks to its interdisciplinary role and its massive potential to generate value, nanotechnology is a key scientific discipline.

Fields such as energy supply, combating climate change and conserving resources all offer promising future applications for nanotechnology. Novel products and processes in the nanotech field are emerging in areas like organic photovoltaics and efficient battery systems for electric vehicles. Roughly a thousand companies are working on nanotechnology in Germany today, and it plays a part in some 60,000 industrial jobs. Nanotechnology is therefore an important driving force for innovation and growth – both in Germany and Japan.

German and Japanese companies are world leaders on research and development in the nanotech field. They thus complement the traditional strengths they have in the field of high-value technologies, such as in automotive or mechanical engineering. Our two countries have been working closely together and utilising synergies in research into new nanotech applications and processes for many years.

The Fifth German-Japanese Symposium on Nanotechnology is a visible expression of the lively and successful co-operation between our two countries in this field of cutting-edge technology. German and Japanese expertise will be presenting the latest findings and discussing new approaches. I wish the conference the best of success, and hope that all the participants enjoy stimulating discussions.

Sincerely yours,