



Report from the Nanoforum online survey on the European Strategy for Nanotechnology published today

Between August and October 2004 Nanoforum hosted an online survey, in cooperation with the European Commission, to determine the community's attitude towards all aspects of nanoscience and nanotechnology (N&N) development.

A total of 720 people filled out the online questionnaire (93% from 32 European states), which makes it one of the largest of its kind in Europe. The survey attracted responses from not only the R&D community, but also included journalists, lecturers and the business community. The survey canvassed opinion on the impact of N&N, the relative standing of Europe compared to other world regions, funding and infrastructure, societal concerns, and health and safety. Most people agreed that there should be an integrated and responsible approach to N&N development.

You can download the full report or an executive summary (after free registration) at:

<http://www.nanoforum.org/index.php?moreaction=showcompletemodul&action=showcomplete&imodul=showpub&scid=277&code=d4b2aeb2453bdadaa45cbe9882ffefcf&userid=664897&wb=161714&>

The survey revealed some common attitudes, namely that:

- . • nanotechnology will have a strong impact on European industry (90%) and its citizens (80%) within ten years;
- . • Europe is perceived to be far behind the United States in both nanoscience (76%) and the transfer of nanotechnology to industry (77%);
- . • chemistry and materials, information and communications technologies, and healthcare are the key areas in which nanotechnologies will have an impact;
- . • there should be a significant increase in research funding via the Framework Programme (79%);

- . • there is a lack of European infrastructure, with 64% supporting the creation of new facilities at European level in e.g. nanomedicine, nanomaterials and information technologies;
- . • Europe may face a shortage of skilled research personnel for N&N in 510 years and there is a need for interdisciplinary skills (90%);
- . • health, safety and environmental risks should be integrated early into research (75%) and there is need to address knowledge gaps about free nanoparticles (72%);
- . • Europe should take account of the societal impact of nanotechnology from an early stage (75%) and that more communication and dialogue is needed;
- . • cooperation with developed (96%) and less developed (76%) countries is important and an international 'code of good conduct' would be welcomed (87%).

The full details of the survey can be read in the Nanoforum report “Outcome of the Open Consultation on the European Strategy for Nanotechnology”, now available for download from the Nanoforum website (download requires registration first, which is free and will only take a few moments).

About Nanoforum

Nanoforum is a pan-European nanotechnology Network of Excellence funded by the EC. It is led by the Institute of Nanotechnology (UK) and partners include VDI-TZ (Germany), Cientifica (Spain), CEA-Leti (France), Malsch TechnoValuation (Netherlands), BIT (Austria), METU (Turkey), UNIPRESS (Poland) and the Monte Carlo Group (Bulgaria).

Nanoforum provides a platform for the dissemination of information to and support for the European nanotechnology community. It achieves this through its website (www.nanoforum.org), where the public, industry and the R&D community can access and search for free a comprehensive database of European nanoscience and nanotechnology organizations, and find out the latest on news, events and other relevant information. In addition, Nanoforum publishes its own timely reports on nanotechnology and key market sectors, the economical and societal impacts of nanotechnology, as well as organizing events throughout the EU to inform, network and support European expertise.