

ES GILT DAS GESPROCHENE WORT

Grußwort von Staatssekretärin Dr. Cordelia Andreßen

President Fouquet,
Madam Mayor,
Professor Jäger,
Professor Rachel,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's a pleasure to me to welcome you to Kiel, on behalf of the government of Schleswig-Holstein, for the International Microscopy Conference 2011 of the German Society for Electron Microscopy.

We are very pleased to see the great interest our guests from Germany and abroad show in coming together here in Kiel for the next six days to discuss the latest developments in materials science and the life sciences.

Schleswig-Holstein has a strong interest in widening its international contacts. To achieve progress in this field is one of the most important goals of our higher education policy.

That is why we support efforts by the universities to intensify international cooperation by encouraging students and research scientists to study abroad and also inviting students and scientists from abroad to take part in a university course in Schleswig-Holstein. That applies to contacts with other countries in general and to the Baltic Sea region in particular because of Schleswig-Holstein's geographic position.

So it is important to us to support the conferences of international societies and ensure, in particular, that specialist societies and experts from our neighbouring countries – Scandinavia, Poland and the Baltic states – are involved and represented.

I'm glad to take this opportunity of presenting Schleswig-Holstein to you as a location where teaching and research take place on an extremely high academic level.

Kiel is the home of our biggest university, two internationally renowned non-university research institutions, the Institute of Marine Sciences and the Institute for the World Economy, Schleswig-Holstein's biggest university of applied sciences and an academy of art.

These are complemented by further institutions in Flensburg, Heide, Borstel and Lübeck – I would especially mention the university and the university of applied sciences in Lübeck.

By setting specific points of emphasis at the universities and through very good networking and cooperation, especially with our numerous non-university institutions, we have created the basis for top-level research in Schleswig-Holstein.

The emphasis of research at the University of Kiel is on the marine sciences, the life sciences, materials science and the arts. That means the scientific topics of the congress are in a field where very intensive research is already being carried out in Kiel.

So we hope that this congress with its numerous workshops, symposiums and lectures will provide stimulus for further development in this field.

One of the focal points of Schleswig-Holstein's research promotion policy is the Excellence Initiative of the federal government and the *Länder*. The purpose of the Excellence Initiative is to promote high-level research in Germany and make it more visible internationally. It encourages cooperation between different scientific institutions and the formation of

interdisciplinary networks. A further aim is to create much better opportunities for up-and-coming scientific personnel.

The universities and research institutions in Schleswig-Holstein have already benefited considerably by the Excellence Initiative. Together with other partners – the Institute of Marine Sciences, the University of Lübeck and the Research Centre in Borstel – the University of Kiel has raised funds of about 81 million euros for two research clusters and a graduate school in the context of the Excellence Initiative of the federal government and the *Länder*.

25 percent of the cost will be paid by Schleswig-Holstein, the rest of the funds will be contributed by the federal government. The applications for the second phase are currently being prepared.

We are very glad that the nanoscience and nanotechnology sector that is already extremely well set up in our region has applied for an excellence cluster called “Materials for Life”; we support this strongly.

In order to enhance the universities’ capacity for excellence and increase the chances that the applications from Schleswig-Holstein will be successful, our Land government is granting the universities of Kiel and Lübeck extra funds of 5.7 million euros

with which they can build up infrastructures and finance earlier appointments.

The transfer of science and technology from the universities into industry is another of Schleswig-Holstein's strategic goals. Here too, good networking is one of the basic requirements – in this case between the academic world and industry.

I mention that because this congress is accompanied by an industrial event in which about 50 companies – so I'm told – are taking part. In our region, where small and medium-sized companies form the basis of the economy, the exchange of information between the universities and industry is an extremely important factor.

So my thanks go to the organizers of this congress, Professor Rachel as president of the German Society for Electron Microscopy and Professor Jäger as the president of the conference, in view of all the positive aspects of the event I have already mentioned: its international character, its stimulus for excellent teaching and research in materials science and the life sciences as focal points in Schleswig-Holstein, and the transfer of expert knowledge into industry.

All in all I feel sure we have a sound basis for a successful conference that will be interesting to all concerned. And besides that I hope you will enjoy your time in Kiel.
Thank you for your attention.