



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Nanogate in Top Three at enterprise awards in Berlin Saarbrücken nanotechnology company rated one of top three in Deutscher Gründerpreis up-and-coming companies category**

**Saarbrücken/Berlin, 13 September 2006. Nanogate AG, Saarbrücken, a pioneer in the field of chemical nanotechnology, was yesterday singled out in Berlin as one of the three outstanding up-and-coming German companies of 2006. The jury was impressed by Nanogate's extraordinary growth as an enabler of the commercialisation of nanotechnology.**

The Deutscher Gründerpreis award ceremony at the Zollernhof ZDF television studio in Berlin took place in the presence of German Minister for Economics and Technology Michael Glos. Nanogate AG's timely and successful commercial exploitation of innovative nanotechnology convinced the jury. An above-average number of products, well-known joint venture partners and excellent future prospects were plus points that earned the company a rating among the top three in the up-and-coming companies category.

"We are so pleased to have won this award, which reaffirms our clear market alignment," said Nanogate AG CEO Ralf Zastrau. "We defined ourselves as a nanotechnology enabler at a very early stage and transformed our scientific success into concrete innovation for practical use," he added. Nanogate now operates as a successful interface between raw material producers and industry in search of product solutions, and therefore defines itself as a gateway to nanotechnology.

"What we are concerned with is practical improvement of our customers' products," Zastrau said. "We always take our lead from the market." In that, Nanogate distanced itself from other technology companies early on, thereby strengthening its position as a pioneer.



Nanogate plans to launch an initial public offering this year subject to general developments on the capital markets. The company plans to use the IPO proceeds to continue its strong previous year's growth by expanding and building new fields of business and technology platforms and extending its development and production capacity. In the current year Nanogate, which has been profitable since 2004, has again reported a positive trend in sales and earnings. In the financial year 2005 Nanogate AG (without participations) increased earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) by around 232% to €382,000. Sales rose by around 67% to approximately €4.8 million during the same period.

Queries? Please feel free to contact:

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**Background information:**

**Nanogate AG**

Nanogate is a leading international enabler in the nanotechnology growth market and so opens the gate to nanotechnology for its customers. The Saarbrücken-based company enables the programming and integration of additional properties such as non-stick, anti-bacterial, anti-corrosive, ultra-low friction. Nanogate thereby gains a competitive edge for customers by product refinement using chemical nanotechnology. Nanogate covers a wide range of industries, functions and substrates, forming a crucial interface for the commercialisation of chemical nanotechnology. It bridges the gap between raw materials and their industrial conversion into products and concentrates as an enabler on the most economically attractive segment in the industry.

As a partner in innovation, Nanogate provides many services along the value chain – from development and production of innovative nanocomposites and nanostructured materials to powerful support for innovation and product integration. The Nanogate Group currently has 45 employees and since commencing operations in 1999 has been a pioneer in nanotechnology. The company has first-class customer references and many years' experience of different industries and applications. Nanogate is a high-growth company and has been profitable since financial year 2004. The Group's consolidation entity also includes Nanogate Advanced Materials GmbH, which specialises in safety



engineering and optics in a joint venture with US corporation Air Products. Nanogate also holds a stake in HOLMENKOL Sport-Technologies GmbH & Co. KG.

### **The Deutscher Gründerpreis**

The Deutscher Gründerpreis awards were established in 2001 as a joint initiative of stern magazine, the Sparkassen savings banks, McKinsey & Company and ZDF television in order to recognise exemplary entrepreneurial success at various stages of company development. They are awarded on an annual basis to companies and people in the company start-up and business scene at different stages of successful entrepreneurship, from concept to lifelong achievement. The aim is to make a positive contribution to the business start-up climate in Germany, to recognise above-average entrepreneurial commitment and to raise public awareness of entrepreneurial models. Awards are presented to company founders and entrepreneurs whose achievements are regarded as outstanding in various respects and who are representative of the many successful company founders in Germany distinguished by their initiative and their courage to take responsibility. A nationwide network of experts nominates suitable companies for the Gründerpreis awards.