



PRESS RELEASE

Nanogate AG wins 2007 STEP Award

Nanogate AG's systematic corporate development, extensive industry portfolio and growth prospects convince the jury

Saarbrücken, 29 November 2007. Nanogate AG was named overall winner of this year's STEP Award yesterday evening. The prestigious award was made in recognition of the Saarbrücken-based nanotechnology company's innovation and growth. The presentation ceremony was a gala event held on the fiftieth floor of the Commerzbank Tower in Frankfurt. The award is worth €100,000.

Nanogate AG made the running to win the overall award from among many top-class international applicants. The STEP Award, made by the F.A.Z.-Institut, Infracore Höchst and many well-known sponsors, goes to SME growth companies in innovative fields ranging from pharmaceuticals, chemicals, life science, biotechnology, nanotechnology and materials management to renewable energy. They must be committed to the "spirit to expand" and have great future potential. The award, which is worth €100,000, is intended to give outstanding companies a major boost to help them achieve further positive development. The €50,000 cash component will influence the company's result positively in financial year 2007.

Nanogate AG, a listed company, convinced an independent jury of representatives of business and scientific research with its innovative products and high-growth development. In recent years Nanogate AG has developed into a leading international enabler in the field of chemical nanotechnology and remains on course for success. As a product enhancer and partner in innovation Nanogate offers its customers numerous services along the value chain: from development



and production of innovative nanocomposites and material systems to strong support for innovation and product integration.

The award was presented and speeches were made by Roland Mohr, general manager of Infracerv Höchst, and Volker Sach, general manager of the F.A.Z.-Institut. Nanogate CEO Ralf Zastrau accepted it. It consists of €50,000 in cash and an extensive service package of equivalent value that will support the company in its forthcoming growth phase.

“We are very proud to have won the overall STEP Award prize this year,” Ralf Zastrau said. He was delighted that the jury had shown appreciation of his company’s profitable growth and sustainable development. “In our work we create on a daily basis product and application innovations that give our customers a clear competitive edge,” he said. “In recent years we have made Nanogate a powerful market participant and are now extending our international profile significantly. This award made in recognition of our commitment is an extra motivation and we are delighted with this support in implementing our company’s next phase.”

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**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 firm 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 its customers by product refinement using chemical nanotechnology. Nanogate covers a wide range of industries, functions and substrates already on the basis of technology platforms. The company thus provides a decisive interface for the commercialisation of chemical nanotechnology, bridges the gap between raw materials and their industrial conversion into products and concentrates as an enabler on one of the most attractive segments 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 57 employees in all (as of 1 July 2007) and since commencing operations in 1999 has been a pioneer in nanotechnology. Nanogate is a high-growth company and has operated profitably since financial year 2004. In financial year 2006 it boosted consolidated sales by about 64% to around €7.84 million. Consolidated earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) to IFRS increased by about 220% to around €1.1 million in 2006. The company has first-class customer references, such as ABB, BSH Bosch-Siemens Hausgeräte, Giesecke & Devrient, Kärcher and Koenig & Bauer AG, and many years' experience of different industries and applications. It has also entered into strategic cooperation with US companies Dow Corning and Ceradyne/ESK Ceramics and Authentix and with Giesecke & Devrient. The Group's consolidation entity includes Nanogate Advanced Materials GmbH, which specialises in safety engineering and optics and is a joint venture with the US Air Products group. Nanogate also holds a stake in HOLMENKOL Sport-Technologies GmbH & Co. KG.

STEP Award:

Initiated by Infracore Höchst and the F.A.Z.-Institut's Innovationsprojekte division, the annual STEP award is made to growth companies in innovative fields ranging from pharmaceuticals, chemicals, life science, biotechnology and materials management to renewable energy. It was awarded for the second time this year. The €100,000 prize money is intended to give emerging companies a major boost to help them achieve constant positive development. In addition to the overall award, awards are made to companies in the categories Market/Customer, Product, Processes and Finance.

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