

FIZ CHEMIE Berlin will present multimedial teaching and learning modules from the German Strategic Project “Network for Chemistry Education“ (VS-C) at this year’s annual meeting of university professors and lecturers from 16th to 19th March / Special event on Tuesday, 18th March

A New Method of Teaching and Learning Chemistry

Berlin, 12th March 2003 – eLearning, learning supported by electronic media, and its future role in education and further education is a subject of much current discussion. In the case of chemistry education, however, the future has already arrived. During this year’s annual meeting of university professors and lecturers (“Chemiedozententagung”) in Chemnitz from the 16th to the 19th March, members of the strategic German project “Network for Chemistry Education” (Vernetztes Studium – Chemie, VS-C) from seven German universities will be presenting newly developed teaching material designed as multimedial building blocks for basic studies in chemistry. The Federal German Government has been supporting the development of modern educational materials based on Web technology through its strategic project VS-C since 1999. In all 16 partners are taking part in the project, 13 of these from German universities. The project co-ordination lies in the hand of the Chemistry Information Centre (Fachinformationszentrum Chemie, FIZ CHEMIE Berlin).

Various educational modules will be demonstrated in Chemnitz, each module being complete within itself and dealing with a single subject of chemistry (such as metal crystals or hydrocarbons, whose structures and chemical behaviour are easy to understand because of their modules’ dynamic visualisations). Other modules permit the simulation of phase equilibria, experiments with a virtual gas chromatograph or the search for new drugs (drug design). A multimedial module from Berlin describes the principles of nuclear magnetic resonance. The modules will be presented during a special event on the 18th March and can also be tried out on visitors’ own laptops during the whole of the meeting at the FIZ CHEMIE Berlin stand.

The VS-C project is not designed to be a virtual college of chemistry but rather it has been conceived to support traditional education in chemistry at universities and colleges and assist teachers with their curriculae in the same way as textbooks or experiments.. Lectures, exercises and practicals are easy to construct from the modules and because of the system’s “learn trajectories”, teachers can use the multimedial material to individually customise their course according to their requirements.

More details are available in the Internet from the project’s Web site “www.vs-c.de” or from FIZ CHEMIE Berlin’s site “www.chemistry.de”.

For additional information

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