

FIZ CHEMIE Berlin is participating in two European development projects within the frame of the ERASMUS and "Leonardo da Vinci" EU Programmes / Development of the information and communications structure for the "LASERLAB EUROPE" research network / Consortial lead in a major vocational educational project for technicians and operators of chemical plants

## FIZ CHEMIE is Building a Major Virtual Laser Research Centre

Berlin, November 2003 – Germany's well-known Chemistry Information Centre (Fachinformationszentrum Chemie, FIZ CHEMIE Berlin) has taken over responsibility for building the electronic information and communications structure for a new network of European research institutes working in laser physics. The Centre will also be heading a consortium in a second new EU project for the development of internationally accredited standards for the qualification of workers in the chemistry industry. This will be announced at this year's online information exhibition and conference which will take place in London from the 2nd to the 4th December. The development project "LASERLAB EUROPE" will bring together 18 research institutes in nine countries of the European Union; 21 partners in nine European countries are participating in the chemistry educational project.

"FIZ CHEMIE Berlin has been given these projects because we have already assimilated much expertise with international information structures in which large amounts of expert knowledge with sometimes very complicated data are stored de-centrally", explained the Centre's Managing Director for Science & Technology, Prof. René Deplanque. "We know how to bring the information together and how to administer it dynamically". In this respect, he also pointed out the highly complex databases which the Centre has been making available online for more than 20 years now, not only for use in internal company networks, but also via all commonly available networks such as X.25, the Internet, etc. In addition, FIZ CHEMIE Berlin has been co-ordinating since 1999 the strategic German project "Networks for Chemistry Education" (Vernetztes Studium – Chemie, VS-C), a project financed by the Federal German Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF). Its goal is the construction of an interactive Web-based teaching and learning platform for various educational models in chemistry. In all, 19 university professors at 16 colleges in Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland are developing multimedial teaching material with VS-C. Teachers in chemistry will soon be able to subscribe to these electronic modules via the Internet and use these to support their teaching in the sense of "blended learning". The project will end in 2004 although many learn modules are already completed.

LASERLAB EUROPE was officially launched in Prague on the 10th November of this year and is part of a so-called "Integrated Initiative" in which the EU is promoting the development of a "European Research Area" for various branches of science and technology. Within the new information and communication network of LASERLAB EUROPE, the exchange of research knowledge will be promoted, scientific visits and joint projects will be able to be organised and even laboratory and plant equipment will be able to be shared. Prof. Deplanque is enthusiastic about the project: "If all goes as planned, we will build a major virtual European research centre". More details about the participating institutes are available in the Internet at <http://www.laserlab-europe.net>.

FIZ CHEMIE Berlin has taken over leadership of the consortium in the second development project, a further education project within the framework of the "Leonardo da Vinci" Programme. In this project, the basis for the improved international comparability of qualifications of chemical operators (chemical plant technicians and users) will be developed. The 21 project participants will jointly formulate reference credentials which will stipulate what knowledge and skills will be required of chemical operators in order for them to operate and maintain chemical plants and equipment. The idea for the project originated at the Educational Association Chemistry and Technology (Bildungsverband Chemie Technik, BVCT) in the eastern German city of Halle and was conceived in close co-operation with the chemical industry. The BVCT will also co-ordinate the scientific side of the project. Participants include representatives of the petrochemical, chemical and pharmaceutical industries and organisations and scientific institutions involved in vocational training and further education.



**FIZ CHEMIE BERLIN**

Fachinformationszentrum Chemie GmbH

**For additional information**

FIZ CHEMIE Berlin  
Postfach 12 03 37  
D-10593 Berlin

Internet: [www.fiz-chemie.de](http://www.fiz-chemie.de)

E-mail: [info@fiz-chemie.de](mailto:info@fiz-chemie.de)

**Contact**

Dr. Anthony Flambard  
Head, Marketing & Sales  
Phone: +49 (0)30 / 399 77- 140  
Fax: +49 (0)30 / 399 77- 132  
E-Mail: [arf@fiz-chemie.de](mailto:arf@fiz-chemie.de)

All statements in this press release that are not historical are forward- looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. securities laws. Such statements are based upon current expectations that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Actual results may vary materially from those projected because of factors such as uncertainties relating to technologies, product development or manufacturing, market acceptance, cost or pricing of FIZ CHEMIE Berlin's products, dependence on collaborations and partners, regulatory approvals, competition, intellectual property of others, or patent or copyright protection or litigation.