

# 1. PREFACE

## *Vorwort*

The year 2002 has been dominated by the developments of our spin off company Quantum Solar Energy Linz (QSEL) GesmbH which is carrying out the industrial utilization and application of our developments in organic plastic solar cells. After a successful search for a strategical partner and detailed negotiations, the Konarka Corporation Lowell Massachusetts, USA has been chosen. Starting the new year 2003 QSEL has transformed into a full subsidiary of Konarka Corp. with an enlarged research & development budget for the next years.

The next two years will be the last period of the Christian Doppler Laboratory for Plastic Solar Cells. Within this period we intend to increase the capital spending and the man power efforts to create the largest possible impact in this area of organic, plastic solar cells maintaining our world leadership.

Another important development in the year of 2002 was the co-operation with the Fachhochschule Wels, which decided to establish a new curriculum on Renewable Energy Technologies. Dr. Dieter Meissner from our group has accepted a professorship position at the Fachhochschule Wels and acted as starting professor of this new curriculum. His continuous engagement at the Welscher Fachhochschule as well as at our Institute will ensure a successful collaboration between the Fachhochschule Wels and our Institute in the area of research and development.

Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Austria (FWF) has accepted a proposal from a large group of scientists from the Linzer and Grazer Universities as a cluster project on organic semiconductors. The consortium coordinated by Dr. Helmut Sitter from our University has already started its operation and besides our Institute there are four groups representing Graz Universities. This concerted effort will increase the impact of organic semiconductor research in Austria considerably.

We want to acknowledge all the financial support we have received from the Linzer Hochschulfonds, Linzer City Government, Upper Austria Local Government, Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung in Austria (FWF), Christian Doppler Society, Ministry of Education and Research in Federal Republic of Germany, Ministry of Economy of The Netherlands (EET) as well as the European Commission. Last but most important, all this could not be realized without the dedicated work of the members of our Group.

Linz, January 2003

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