

1. PREFACE / Vorwort

This is the first Annual Report of our Group at the Johannes Kepler University Linz in the official framework of the Linz Institute for Organic Solar Cells (LIOS) jointly with the Department of Physical Chemistry. LIOS is a dedicated Institute in research on organic solar cells and many of our research activities will be performed within this legal entity in future. There will be, however, no legal as well as operational changes within the Department of Physical Chemistry. The inauguration of LIOS is a clear addition to our activities framework and shall not be substitutional in any sense.

We have established a reknown research worldwide on the "photophysics & photochemistry of organic semiconductors" in general and on the "plastic solar cells" in particular. In fact in early 2001 as published in Appl. Phys. Lett. by Sean Shaheen et al, we have achieved the world record in efficiency (>2.5%) using organic solar cells. These solar cells are indigenously fabricated, optimized and characterized here in Linz. This is a proud fact and at the same time a very challenging leadership since the number of highly qualified competitors is explosively increasing.

The large increase in research and development activity in organic solar cells worldwide is clearly observed during the International Conference on Synthetic Metals (ICSM 2000, organized by Prof. Sariciftci and Dr. Neugebauer together with Prof. Leising and Dr. Resel) as well as in Quantsol meetings recently. Also a very high-ranked Japanese governmental, academic & industrial delegation visited us late 2000. This Austrian & Japanese Organic Optoelectronic Symposium which was organized in Linz also clearly showed the direct interest of Japan in our solar cells. Late 2000 also a large project of the German Ministry of Science and Education (BMBF) started with our participation. We will do all necessary scientific and technical efforts to keep our group at the University of Linz as a centerfold of this research, worldwide.

The year 2000 has brought a Nobel Prize for Chemistry to three fathers of conjugated polymer science: Alan Heeger, Alan MacDiarmid and Hideki Shirakawa. We herewith congratulate our friends wholeheartedly for this very distinguished achievement. This honorable occasion has been enthusiastically celebrated in our group. Not only due to our personal relation to the Nobel Laurates but also due to the fact that this prize directly distinguishes a branch of interdisciplinary research which our group belongs to and is active in. The field of conjugated polymer science & technology has received a strong support worldwide with this Nobel Prize.

In December also our group has been awarded the "Grünpreis" given by the Green Party of Upper Austria for environmentally active research. I want to acknowledge all the support I have received from the Linzer Hochschulfonds, Linzer City Government, Upper Austria Local Government, Fonds for Advancement of Science in Austria, Christian Doppler Society, EET programme of the Dutch Ministry of Economy 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.

Sariciftci

Linz, April 2001