

1. PREFACE

Vorwort

This is the second (1997-1998 was the first) Annual Report of our Group at the Johannes Kepler University Linz.

We have established a reknown research worldwide on the "photophysics & photochemistry of organic semiconductors" in general and on the "plastic solar cells" in particular. The results of our research have been published and presented in different international journals as well as in numerous international conferences. All these facts are displayed in this report and I can comfortably decribe the result of 1999 as "highly competetive and successfull".

In the last quarter of 1999 we had the two years stop&go decision for the Christian Doppler Laboratory for Plastic Solar Cells which has been established in our group on January 1998. This dedicated laboratory, which is established by the Christian Doppler Society and financed by the fund matching scheme between the Quantum Solar Energy Linz GesmbH (industrial partner) and the Austrian Ministry of Economic Affairs, has already reached a well known reputation worldwide. In our efforts to push the field of "plastic solar cells" this Christian Doppler Laboratoy for Plastic Solar Cells plays a central role. Therefore, the critial stop&go decision after two years (end of 1999) was indeed the most important milestone in this scope.

International jury has been invited to evaluate the scientific and technical progress as well as Christian Doppler Society critically reviewed our financial and operational scheme. The result of this procedure has been the "GO" decision to continue this project for the main phase of another five years until end of 2004. This decision which was based on the evaluation marks of the scinetific referees as well as on the financial committment of our industrial partner is an objective rating for our research quality. The second phase of another five years period will give us the time and means to continue our efforts for realizing plastic solar cells.

Also unnoticed by the research & development activity there has been an important political development: The establishment of LIOS, Linzer Institut für Organische Solarzellen at the Johannes Kepler University Linz. With the financial supports of Linzer Hochschulfonds and Johannes Kepler University Linz, this Institute will be dedicated to Research & Development of Organic Solar Cells and will also act as a seeding ground for spin-off companies. In this scheme, spin off companies will be created and fed for a period of five years within the Institute as breeding period. This innovation transfer model will be applied to channel the know-how of the University to the local economy. Since the social role of the University is moving from a purely higher-educational site towards a motor for the new technology based economies, this innovation transfer model of LIOS is an important step towards implementing this new ideology.

I want to acknowledge all the support I have received from the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Dean of Natural Sciences, Linzer Hochschulfonds, Linzer City Government, Upper Austria Local Government, Ministry of Science and Transport, Fonds for Advancement of Science in Austria, Christian Doppler Society 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.