1. PREFACE

Vorwort

This year the moving of our Institute to the 8th floor of the Science and Technology Tower of the Johannes Kepler University has started. The first phase was completed at November 2003 and the acute problem of sitting rooms for our scientific and non-scientific personnel has been solved. The complete move of the labs will continue throughout the 2004 and at the end we shall locate all our labs (now distributed over three floors and two locations) at this 8th floor.

Like every move this is not easy to organize as well as quite disruptive for the operations. Nevertheless, the new rooms brought and will bring also a much better infrastructure for our team members and this motivates in return.

The development of a European platform for organic solar cells has been engaged by the organization of the Science Bazaaar in Linz at which nearly all European countries were represented by over 120 participants with official observers from Japan as well as visitors from USA. This shows the enormous interest in this research field in the European Scientific Community. It is expected and intended that several proposals can come out from the organization of Science Bazaar and shall be submitted to European R &D programmes throughout the year 2004.

Last but not least, the virtual academy of conducting polymers has been inaugurated and opened at our homepage www.lios.at.

This charge-free, worldwide accessible video lecture series has started with the lectures of Prof. Alan J. Heeger (Universiy of California, Santa Barbara, USA, Nobel Prize for Chemistry 2000), in his series of teaching lectures on "Physics and Chemistry of Semiconducting Polymer". The virtual academy will be enlarged in due course by further prominent lecturers and video publication of them.

Herewith I want to acknowledge the very engaged efforts of my team, especially our mechanical, technical assistant Manfred Lipp, during the whole moving operations as well as during the Science Bazaar in Linz.

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Niyazi Serdar Sariciftci