

An Interdisciplinary Team of Top Researchers

Hector Foundation II Appoints Another Two KIT Professors to Hector Fellows



Ceremonial presentation of awards: Hans-Werner and Josephine Hector (center) with the newly appointed fellows (from the left:) Professor Manfred Kappes, Professor Franz Nestmann, both KIT, and Professor Thomas Elbert, University of Constance. (Photo: vitapublic GmbH)

For the second time, the Hector Foundation II has appointed excellent scientists to Hector Fellows and granted awards of EUR 450,000 in total. Of the three awardees, two are scientists at KIT: Professor Manfred Kappes, Head of the Institute of Physical Chemistry, and Professor Franz Nestmann, Managing Director of the Institute for Water and River Basin Management.

With the awards, the foundation established by Hans-Werner and Josephine Hector acknowledges the commitment and achievements of the professors in science, research, and education. Major criteria for the selection are the commitment to the promotion of young scientists and the contribution to interdisciplinary and interinstitutional exchange of knowledge. The third new fellow is Thomas Elbert, Professor of clinical psychology and neuropsychology at the University of Constance.

During a celebration at the Villa Hammerschmiede, Pfintal-Söllingen, the three researchers received the awards directly from Josephine and Hans-Werner Hector. Every Hector fellowship is associated with an award of EUR 150,000.

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In the past year already did the board of trustees of the Hector Foundation II appoint three professors of KIT to hector fellows. Networking of the fellows gives rise to a team of top scientists, who support each other in their research work and exchange information. "Institutions, such as the hector fellows, meet an urgent requirement of science and are of use to Germany as a location of science", explained the founder Hans-Werner Hector when appointing the new fellows.

The New Hector Fellows from KIT:

Manfred Kappes heads the Institute of Physical Chemistry, he is holder of the Chair of Physical Chemistry of Microscopic Systems, Director of the Institute of Nanotechnology, and Deputy Spokesman of the KIT NanoMicro Center. Among others, his research activities focus on metal clusters. He compares clusters of metal atoms of variable size with regard to their structure and behavior. In addition, he extensively studies spherical molecules of carbon atoms, so-called fullerenes, and carbon nanotubes. "Appointment to a Hector Fellow is a great honor", says Professor Kappes. "I consider the award to be an incentive for my future work."

Franz Nestmann is Managing Director of the Institute for Water and River Basin Management and heads the Water Resources Management and Rural Engineering Department. He initiated a number of joint water management and flood protection projects in various river catchment areas. His work also focused on the construction of an underground water pumping facility in the karst caves of the Indonesian island of Java, the pumps of which are operated by means of the existing hydropower. The pilot plant serves as a model for other projects under similar conditions all over the world. "I am delighted about this award, it is not only a personal honor for me", explains Professor Nestmann. "This award also honors all my colleagues, who were involved in the projects."

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation and state institution of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. KIT pursues its tasks in the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.

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