

Oliver Kraft Is Elected President of the Materials Research Society

First Non-American to Chair the Leading Organization for Materials Research Worldwide



*Professor Oliver Kraft, Director of the KIT Institute for Applied Materials (IAM).
(Photo: Markus Breig/KIT)*

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For the first time during the 40 years of its existence, the renowned Materials Research Society (MRS) has elected a non-American as its president: The KIT materials researcher Professor Oliver Kraft will be Vice President of the MRS in 2014 and MRS President in 2015. At KIT, Oliver Kraft is Director of the Institute for Applied Materials (IAM) and holds the Robert Bosch Professorship for Nanostructured Functional Materials.

“The Materials Research Society has its office in the USA and is a globally operating society with members in 80 countries,” Professor Kraft explains. “It will be one of my major goals as MRS President to increasingly integrate members from other countries, in particular from threshold countries, for cooperation. In this way, materials sciences can be shaped worldwide and in an interdisciplinary manner in line with our principle ‘Improving the quality of life.’” The MRS has more than 16400 members, who are materials researchers working in research, industry, and the public sector. They are physicists, chemists, biologists, mathematicians, and engineers and, thus, cover the complete spectrum of materials sciences. The MRS supports

interdisciplinary exchange and is one of the leading organizations for materials research worldwide.

Research conducted by Professor Oliver Kraft at KIT focuses on nanomaterials for various applications, ranging from microsystems technology and microelectronics to energy conversion and energy storage. With his about 70 employees at IAM, he develops and characterizes materials and studies their mechanical behavior, function, stability, and long-term reliability. He combines experiments with models and simulations from the atomic to the macroscopic scale.

Oliver Kraft studied and did his PhD in materials sciences at the University of Stuttgart. He was guest scientist at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering of Stanford University/USA and headed a project group in the area of “Deformation Mechanisms in Thin Metal Layers and Small Volumes” at the Max Planck Institute for Metals Research, Stuttgart. Since 2002, he has been professor and head of institute at KIT. In early 2012, he was appointed Robert Bosch endowed Professor for Nanostructured Functional Materials.

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9000 employees, including nearly 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24000 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.

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