

cynora Is "Falling Walls Science Startup of the Year"

KIT Spinoff Studies and Develops Organic Light-emitting Diodes



Founder Tobias Grab presented cynora GmbH at the Falling Walls Conference in Berlin. (Photo: Jens Fahrenberg, KIT)

cynora GmbH, a spinoff of Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), was proclaimed the science startup of the year 2013 at the International Falling Walls Conference in Berlin last weekend. Dr. Tobias Grab, the founder of the enterprise located at KIT's high-tech incubator, had been nominated by KIT. Like the two co-founders of cynora GmbH, Dr. Thomas Baumann and Michael Bächle, Grab graduated at KIT. cynora GmbH studies and develops low-cost organic semiconductor materials for organic light-emitting diodes (OLED) and organic solar cells (OPV). As the winner of the competition, Tobias Grab presented the KIT spinoff at the Falling Walls Conference to the public and representatives of science, industry, and politics.

"The Falling Walls Conference focuses on scientific breakthroughs and developments having the potential to change the world. When a research-oriented KIT spinoff in the area of OLED as a key technology wins the competition, this is a great success," says Professor Detlef Löhe, KIT Vice President for Research and Information. He

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nominated cynora GmbH together with the Head of the Innovation Management Service Unit, Dr. Jens Fahrenberg.

Transparent foils for windows that illuminate the apartment during the night, foils charging the laptop or mobile phone when the sun is shining, flexible screens and self-luminous packagings – these are only some applications that will be possible in the future thanks to organic electronics. Instead of the very rare metal iridium that is applied in displays of mobile phones today, cynora GmbH uses copper for the production of light-emitting materials. “Copper is much more abundant. In certain areas, it is technically advantageous over the rare iridium,” cynora founder Tobias Grab says. “Moreover, iridium requires a very complex vacuum deposition process that is not needed when using copper. We have now found the key to printed flexible electronics – everything will light up in the future.” Grab relies on a new chemical design, in which an organic compound (ligand) surrounds the copper and displaces its electronic structure such that energy is emitted efficiently in the form of light.

In the “Falling Walls Venture” competition, Tobias Grab won over another 20 nominated companies. This event is part of the International Falling Walls Conference. As a tradition, it takes place in Berlin on the anniversary day of the fall of the Berlin wall on November 09. 20 international top researchers are invited to report about scientific breakthroughs in natural and social sciences and the humanities.

About cynora GmbH

cynora GmbH was established in 2003 and has been headed by a new management team since 2008. The company concentrates on studying novel organic semiconductors that may be applied as luminophores in organic light-emitting diodes (OLED). cynora covers the complete spectrum of material and component development, from the design of new functional molecules for organic light-emitting diodes to their manufacture at the laboratory to comprehensive testing of the materials to production of OLED components. The company presently has a young and dynamic team of 24 employees working on further increasing the efficiency and on improving cost-effective processing and service life of the OLED. The company owns more than 60 patent applications and is supported by experienced venture investors. Printing of optoelectronic components requires new, smart materials and concepts. Such components may be used in displays, packagings, light sources, design objects, and solar cells for energy production.

Further information: www.cynora.com.

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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