Board members of UniSysCat and Einstein Center of Catalysis elected

Start Time: Monday, January 14, 2019

End Time:

During the first general meeting of UniSysCat, the executive board of the Excellence Cluster "Unifying Systems in Catalysis" was elected on Friday, Jan 11, 2019. Prof. Arne Thomas (TU Berlin) was elected speaker, vice-speakers are Prof. Matthias Drieß (TU Berlin), the previous speaker of UniCat, and Prof. Holger Dobbek (HU Berlin). The assembly elected as further board members Prof. Dorothea Fiedler (FMP Berlin), Prof. Joachim Heberle (FU Berlin), Prof. Silke Leimkühler (U Potsdam), Prof. Christian Limberg (HU Berlin), Dr. Martin Oschatz (MPIKG Potsdam), Prof. Beatriz Roldan Cuenya (FHI Berlin) and Prof. Roel van de Krol (HZB Berlin).

As the first official act, the board of UniSysCat then elected the board of the newly approved Einstein Center of Catalysis (EC²). As spokesperson, the former acting director Prof. Peter Hildebrandt (TU Berlin) was confirmed, deputy spokesperson is Prof. Maria Andrea Mroginski (TU Berlin). The board of EC² also includes Prof. Holger Dau (FU Berlin), Prof. Stefan Hecht (HU Berlin), Prof. Kallol Ray (HU Berlin), Prof. Janina Kneipp (HU Berlin), Prof. Adam Lange (FMP Berlin), Dr. Oliver Lenz (TU Berlin) Prof. Kallol Ray (HU Berlin), Prof. Reinhard Schomäcker (TU Berlin) and Prof. Johannes Teichert (TU Berlin).

"The aim of the UniSysCat Cluster of Excellence is to understand in principle how starting materials, intermediates and reaction products come into contact with various catalysts involved in order to react as efficiently as in a living cell.", Explains Prof. Dr. Arne Thomas, the newly elected spokesperson for the cluster. UniSysCat will hold a key position in the development of green chemistry in Germany, building on the excellent work of UniCat, the

precursor cluster of UniSysCat. "In many cases, individual catalytic reactions are already well understood, and now it is important to decipher reaction networks in chemical and biological catalysis in space and time in order to be able to control, simulate and modify them", says Prof. Dr. Peter Hildebrandt, TU Berlin, spokesperson of EC².

Nature creates a coexistence of many different chemical reactions in a confined space, conserving resources, exploiting synergies and making chemical reactions greener and much more efficient than the industry has been able to do so far. Conventional industrial production, on the other hand, performs one production step after another, as in a linear chain. "In a single plant cell, a number of reaction chains can run at lightning speed, and we would need a hundred-meter-long industrial plant in production," explains Matthias Driess, vice spokesman for UniSysCat.