



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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DTSC Hosts Fifth Nanotechnology Symposium, Giving Industry Perspective on Benefits and Risks of Emerging Technology

SACRAMENTO, CA – Industry leaders, academic experts and government officials convened in Sacramento today for the fifth nanotechnology symposium sponsored by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

The symposium, “Nanotechnology Initiative Symposium V: An Industry Perspective”, explored worldwide collaborative efforts on the health, safety and environmental impacts of nanomaterials. Co-sponsored by the California Nanotechnology Industry Network and the California Manufacturers & Technology Association, the symposium which was attended by industry representatives, provided a global perspective on the emerging nanotechnology industry.

Nanotechnology affects every day products resulting in faster computers, light bulbs that use less energy, cosmetics, and even scratch-resistant automotive coatings. It is an exciting and emerging field that incorporates the design, characterization and application of structures, devices and systems by controlling the shape and size of materials at the nanometer scale. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter.

“DTSC is pleased to be working with renowned experts in the nanotechnology sector, like Dr. Andrew Maynard, who is exploring the benefits and risks of this emerging field,” said DTSC Acting Director Maziar Movassaghi. “It is essential that we use a collaborative approach with all stakeholders to develop sustainable manufacturing strategies to prevent negative health impacts and environmental consequences.”

“Over the past ten years, the emerging field of nanotechnology has shaken up preconceived ideas of how emerging technologies are developed, used and regulated,” explained Dr. Andrew Maynard, Chief Science Advisor, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. “Advances in the science and technology of manipulating matter at the nanoscale are opening up tremendous new possibilities for developing new products and finding new solutions to tough challenges. As a result, the producers, users and regulators of nanotechnology-enabled products are being forced into new ways of working together, to ensure the safe, sustainable and successful development of the technology.”

During the symposium, industry representatives discussed the status of DTSC’s Nanotechnology Chemical Information Call-in Program, established in January 2009. The program identifies information gaps and develops information about carbon nanotubes (an important emerging nanomaterial). In the future it will also obtain information about other

nanomaterials such as nano silver, nano zerovalent iron, and cerium oxide.

"Industry has been working proactively with governments in the US and around the globe to identify and seek answers to safety and environmental questions regarding nano materials," said DuPont's Tom Jacob, who serves as coordinator of the California Nanotechnology Industry Network "Nanotechnology Symposium V presents a unique opportunity to inform the State about those collaborative efforts and the ways they are helping leading global companies safely utilize nanomaterials."

Other distinguished speakers at the symposium, in addition to Dr. Maynard, included: Charles Geraci, Ph.D., National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); Kristen Kulinowski, Rice University, Center for Biological and Environmental Nanotechnology; Richard Pleaus, Ph.D., Intertox; Tim Malloy, J.D., University of California, Los Angeles; and Patricia Holden, Ph.D., University of California, Santa Barbara

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The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to protect public health, safety, and the environment from toxic harm.