

Wintershall supports young people in natural sciences in Hesse

- **Wintershall is main sponsor of the MINT student congress in Kassel**
- **Additional donation of 5,000 euros for student research center**

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Kassel. Wintershall is supporting efforts to promote natural sciences and technology subjects among school students, especially in the city of its main headquarters, Kassel, and is sponsoring the MINT congress for school students, held from 5 to 7 July in Kassel, with 10,000 euros. On the occasion of the congress, Thilo Wieland, Member of the Board of Executive Directors of Wintershall Holding GmbH, today presented an additional donation of 5,000 euros to the student research center of North Hesse (SFN), which is organizing the congress. The donation enabled the research center, of which Klaus-Peter Haupt is the director, to fund the costly restoration of an electron microscope.

The microscope is worth around 60,000 euros and is used keenly by students at the SFN to examine surfaces. The resolution of an electron microscope is almost 1,000 times higher than that of a light microscope and shows structures in much greater detail.

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Thilo Wieland is delighted about the school students' interest in sciences. "As a company with its roots in natural sciences, we strongly believe in making sure young people who are interested in natural sciences are supported and stretched – for example with the activities of the student research center. After all, it is these young minds that approach challenges from a fresh new perspective, and whom we will have to thank for new solutions in future," he said explaining the reasons for Wintershall's commitment.

Wintershall has already supported the student research center of North Hesse in purchasing graphic cards for computers and with specialist lectures for past student congresses. Wintershall is also involved in other educational projects. For example, as an active member of the Wissensfabrik (Knowledge Factory) initiative, of which BASF is one of the founding companies, the crude oil and natural gas producer provides science kits to primary schools in the region, which help bring natural sciences to life for the school students.

Student research center in North Hesse and MINT student congress

Students in grades five to thirteen from schools in North Hesse have been experimenting in natural sciences at the SFN since 2012. The young researchers have access to almost 700 square meters in 18 rooms alongside a workshop with a large range of technical equipment, such as the electron microscope.

The MINT student congress is organized once a year by the student research center of North Hesse, the Albert Schweitzer school and the member organizations of Science-for-People. During the congress students from Hesse have the chance to attend workshops, presentations and exhibitions on all sorts of subjects relating to

mathematics, IT, natural sciences and technology (known as MINT subjects).

Wintershall Holding GmbH, based in Kassel, Germany, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BASF in Ludwigshafen. The company has been active in the extraction of natural resources for 120 years, and in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas for over 80 years. Wintershall focuses on selected core regions where the company has built up a high level of regional and technological expertise. These are Europe, Russia, North Africa, South America, and increasingly the Middle East region. The company wants to expand its business further with exploration and production, selected partnerships, innovation and technological competence. Wintershall employs about 2,000 staff worldwide from 50 nations and is now Germany's largest, internationally active crude oil and natural gas producer.

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