

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Markus Wolperdinger takes over the management of Fraunhofer IGB**

**Dr. Markus Wolperdinger has taken over the management of the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology IGB as of March 1, 2018. Wolperdinger, who has a doctoral degree in chemistry and many years of industry experience in the field of industrial biotechnology and plant construction, is already very familiar with the Institute through his work on the IGB Board of Trustees. Wolperdinger also played a major role in the establishment of the Fraunhofer Center for Chemical-Biotechnological Processes CBP in Leuna.**

With effect from March 1, 2018, Dr. Markus Wolperdinger has taken over the management of the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology IGB. "This step opens up new creative possibilities for me at the interface of applied research and industrial implementation of the results, an area that has always been of great importance to me," Wolperdinger explains his motivation. He is already familiar with the Institute from joint activities with Fraunhofer IGB in the past, his activities on the Institute's Board of Trustees and as a member of the appointments committee for the successor to the Institute's management. "I know what potential the Institute has and I am very much looking forward to working with the staff to make full use of the Institute's range of opportunities," says the new Director.

Wolperdinger, who has a doctoral degree in chemistry, combines many years of experience in the field of industrial biotechnology, large-scale plant construction and the development of highly innovative measuring systems for the industrial gases industry. His international career has led Wolperdinger from development, sales and management roles at innovative start-up companies and in medium-sized industry to leading positions in globally operating industrial groups. Due to his broad-based activities with high-level responsibilities, he brings valuable knowledge and an extensive network to IGB. "It is important to me that we understand the wide range of competencies at the IGB as comprehensive opportunities for value creation and that we can offer our customers and partners integral solutions for the questions they formulate that they do not receive elsewhere. My goal is that the Institute can consistently offer the various dimensions of process development and scaling in its business fields – from the laboratory to the pre-industrial scale – in order to create a unique selling point for the IGB," Wolperdinger outlines his strategy.

In order to achieve this, Markus Wolperdinger will build on the potential of IGB's versatile competencies to find solutions to global challenges such as climate change and scarcity of resources with sustainable production and integrated, cycle-based processes. "I also see it as an important task to bring relevant future trends into line

**FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR INTERFACIAL ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY IGB**

with the thematic focuses of IGB. A keyword here is “Industry 4.0” and the associated question of what contribution the Institute can make,” says Wolperdinger. He also sees attractive business opportunities in the fields of medicine and health, for example with new technologies in molecular diagnostics or the manufacture of personalized products – concepts that he intends to expand further.

Markus Wolperdinger already knows the Institute very well. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Fraunhofer IGB since 2011 and its chairman since 2014. On behalf of industry, he had already played a major role in the successful establishment and financing of the Fraunhofer Center for Chemical-Biotechnological Processes CBP in Leuna. Wolperdinger continued his long-standing and intensive cooperation with IGB when he moved to the Engineering Division of Linde AG in Dresden in 2011, where he shortly afterwards took over the management of the biotechnology plant product line worldwide. Together with Linde, Wolperdinger accompanied the development of CBP as general contractor for plant engineering and was involved in a number of joint research projects with IGB. Most recently, he was responsible at Linde AG headquarters for coordinating public funding for worldwide development projects.

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**Dr. Markus Wolperdinger has headed the Fraunhofer IGB since March 1, 2018.**

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**Brief Curriculum Vitae of Dr. Markus Wolperdinger**

2012 – 2017	Vice President Biotechnology Plants and Senior Manager Public Funding, Linde AG, Engineering Division & Linde Gas – Dresden, Pullach
2011 – 2012	Head of Business Development Biotechnology Plants, Linde Engineering Dresden GmbH – Dresden
2006 – 2010	Head of Relocation and Strategy Industrial Biotechnology, InfraLeuna GmbH – Leuna
2000 – 2006	Managing Director, Munich Innovative Biomaterials GmbH – Marburg, Leuna
1998 – 2000	Director of Product Development, Innovative Lasers Corporation – Tucson, USA
1995 – 1998	Senior Research Scientist, Innovative Lasers Corporation – Tucson, USA
1991 – 1995	PhD at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich, Institute for Physical Chemistry
1985 – 1991	Study of Chemistry at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich
1979 – 1982	Apprenticeship for State Certified Laboratory Technician (Chemistry)

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The **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft** is the leading organization for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 72 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of more than 25,000, who work with an annual research budget totaling 2.3 billion euros. Of this sum, almost 2 billion euros is generated through contract research. Around 70 percent of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's contract research revenue is derived from contracts with industry and from publicly financed research projects. International collaborations with excellent research partners and innovative companies around the world ensure direct access to regions of the greatest importance to present and future scientific progress and economic development.

The **Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology IGB** develops and optimizes processes, technologies and products in the fields of health, chemistry and process industry, as well as environment and energy. We combine the highest scientific standards with professional know-how in our competence areas – always with a view to economic efficiency and sustainability. Our strengths are offering complete solutions from the laboratory to the pilot scale. Customers also benefit from the cooperation between our five R&D departments in Stuttgart and the institute branches located in Leuna and Straubing. The constructive interplay of the various disciplines at our institute opens up new approaches in areas such as medical engineering, nanotechnology, industrial biotechnology, and environmental technology.