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## German Mineralogical Society

### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### Mineralogy and Funding



Germany's largest funding organization is the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG). In 2006, the DFG was involved in the development of an excellence initiative that resulted in the establishment and support of 18 graduate schools, 17 clusters of excellence, and 3 universities with institutional strategies. The total support involves 870 million Euros over the next five years. This is in fact additional money for research, as the classical programs of individual grants and other well-established research

grants are continuing without financial reduction. For several years now, German scientists have felt a major change in political long-term strategies concerning science support. International competition has increased, and the mobility of researchers may have alarmed politicians. The support of young researchers has always had high priority, and the German Mineralogical Association was extremely pleased that the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize of the DFG for 2006 was awarded to Falko Langenhorst for his research on impact processes and their influence on the biosphere. In previous years as well, mineralogists have been very successful in the competition for this prestigious prize.

The currently supported, coordinated programs in geosciences are listed on the homepage of the German Research Foundation ([www.dfg.de/en/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/index.html)). The following are examples from the list of priority programs: Integrated Ocean Drilling Program/Ocean Drilling Program (IODP/ODP), Internationales Kontinentales Bohrprogramm (ICDP), Mars und die terrestrischen Planeten, Vom Mantel zum Ozean: Energie-, Stoff- und Lebenszyklen an Spreizungsachsen, Antarktisforschung mit vergleichenden Untersuchungen in arktischen Eisgebieten, and Synthesis, in situ characterization and quantum mechanical modelling of Earth materials, oxides, carbides and nitrides at extremely high pressures and temperatures. An example of a theme at a Collaborative Research Centre is Rheology of the Earth – From the Upper Crust into the Subduction Zone, and an example of a theme at a Research Unit is Nanoscale Processes and Geomaterials Properties. The detailed list of funding and programs can be seen at [www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/programmes\\_at\\_a\\_glance.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/programmes_at_a_glance.html).

The election of all review-board members of the DFG is being prepared and will take place between November 5 and December 3, 2007. The list of candidates results from the input of 210 institutions such as the German universities and the scientific associations representing the various fields of study, as well as the Leibniz Prize winners, etc. This year, 1876 candidates were proposed, and their average age is around 50 years. The percentage of female candidates is 17%. From the nominated candidates, 15 will be elected as review-board members in the geosciences. The results will be announced on the DFG homepage; the review-board numbers relevant to the geosciences are 313–317.

**Ulrich Bismayer**  
DMG President

### FURTHER FIVE-YEAR PROLONGATION OF THE GERMAN INTERNATIONAL CONTINENTAL SCIENTIFIC DRILLING PROGRAM (ICDP GERMANY)



With a total investment in the tens of millions of Euros, the German Research Foundation (DFG) will finance the continuation of the Priority Program ICDP Germany for the next five years. This decision is based on the program's excellent evaluation and its high-class scientific performance during the past five years. The German program in particular enables the participation of German scientists in international collaborations related to continental drilling research. It contributes to the understanding of geophysical and geochemical conditions of ongoing processes in the crust using boreholes as deep labs for long-term observations.

Besides funding of full proposals, the DFG provides grants for pre-site studies, in order to evaluate the potential of specific drilling sites and to launch new scientific drilling initiatives. The DFG also finances a coordination office whose responsibility it is to initiate and coordinate research projects, to liaise with the German ICDP community, to cooperate with related geoscientific programs such as IODP Germany, and to augment the visibility of German research activities related to continental scientific drilling at an international level.

FURTHER INFORMATION:  
[www.geo.uni-potsdam.de/ICDP\\_Homepage/index.html](http://www.geo.uni-potsdam.de/ICDP_Homepage/index.html)

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