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### EMPG XIV IN KIEL, GERMANY

The fourteenth Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry (EMPG) Conference took place between March 4 and 7 at the Christian Albrechts University in Kiel and was organized by the Department of Mineralogy of that institution. More than 260 participants from 30 countries found their way to northern Germany, thus fulfilling the organizers' intention to bring together researchers from all fields of experimental geosciences. Altogether, 230 abstracts were submitted (104 posters and 126 oral presentations). The whole range of experimental research, including geochemical, mineralogical, and petrological aspects, was covered. Because of the long distance to Kiel, the participation of some attendees was made possible with the support of the European Mineralogical Union (EMU) and the German Mineralogical Society (DMG); this support is gratefully acknowledged by the organizers.

A wide range of topics was covered during the conference, including the evolution of terrestrial planets and the early Earth, subduction zone processes, and the deep Earth. Another theme concentrated on new frontiers and developments in experimental applications and applied geosciences. Examples were found in sessions dealing with the capture and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> and the exploration and disposal of energy-related and hazardous materials.

During the last EMPG Conference, in Toulouse in 2010, an effort was made to encourage closer links between theoretical simulations and experimental approaches. Especially in topics like diffusion, reaction kinetics, and small-scale deformations, stronger collaborations might have great potential. During EMPG XIV, researchers with numerical backgrounds presented their research in at least two sessions. Hopefully, this effort will be continued or even enlarged in future conferences.

The organization of this conference was exemplary. From the efficient online registration, through the icebreaker event, to the conference itself and the conference dinner, many helping hands made sure that everything was working perfectly. Let's not forget the many small details, like continuously available coffee and cake, the friendly staff in the cloakroom, and the speakers' ready room. Special thanks go to Philipp Kegler, Astrid Holzheid, their team, and all the helpers.

**Bastian Joachim**

### SIEMENS RESEARCH CENTER ON RARE EARTH ELEMENTS AT RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY



People at the Siemens Rare Earth Element Research Center at RWTH Aachen University

In their first research program at a university anywhere in the world, the Siemens group is providing €6 million in funding for a program of strategic collaboration on rare earth elements with RWTH Aachen University. The main objective of the research program is the development of methods and processes for ensuring an environmentally

friendly and efficient supply of rare earth elements for permanent magnet production. This strategic project is a result of a long-term cooperative agreement between Siemens and RWTH Aachen, a partner university in the international Center of Knowledge Interchange (CKI) program.

The Siemens Research Center (SRC) follows the program structure of the German Research Foundation (DFG) "Collaborative Research Centers" (CRC). Like a CRC, it concentrates and coordinates RWTH resources in the fields of economic geology and mineralogy, ore dressing, metallurgy, and recycling, and enables researchers to pursue a long-term research program across discipline boundaries. Taking part in the SRC are five departments from RWTH Aachen University, another from Forschungszentrum Jülich, and experts from Siemens' Industry Sector. At least nine PhD students will conduct their research under the auspices of the program over the next four years.

The SRC involves RWTH, Siemens, and experts in the supply chain from REE minerals, ore deposits, ore processing, and metallurgical refining to products. Thus, the research focus spans a "mine to magnet" approach, from the identification of alternative REE deposits with detrimental components, through the development of environmentally friendly and sustainable processes for recovery and extraction, to the design of efficient methods for recycling and life cycle analyses. The aim is to extend rare earth supply through improved mineralogical resource information and ore beneficiation, and innovative separation and recovery technologies.

**Michael Meyer**

The First European Mineralogical Conference will be held at the Goethe-University in Frankfurt, Germany, 2-6 September 2012.



The contributing societies are:

<b>DMG</b>	<b>Deutsche Mineralogische Gesellschaft</b>
<b>MinSoc</b>	<b>Mineralogical Society of Great Britain &amp; Ireland</b>
<b>MinSocFin</b>	<b>Mineralogical Society of Finland</b>
<b>ÖMG</b>	<b>Österreichische Mineralogische Gesellschaft</b>
<b>PTMin</b>	<b>Mineralogical Society of Poland</b>
<b>RMS</b>	<b>Russian Mineralogical Society</b>
<b>SEM</b>	<b>Sociedad Española de Mineralogía</b>
<b>SFMC</b>	<b>Société Française de Minéralogie et de Cristallographie</b>
<b>SIMP</b>	<b>Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia</b>
<b>SSMP</b>	<b>Swiss Society of Mineralogy and Petrology</b>

The themes for the conference are as follows: Mantle petrology and geochemistry; Magmatism and volcanology; Metamorphism; Applied mineralogy; Mineral physics; Mineralogical crystallography; Planetary materials; Mineral deposits and raw materials; Low T geochemistry; Geochronology; Geobiochemistry; Advanced analytical techniques; Archaeometry, care and preservation; Open session.

Invited lectures will be given by Hilary Downes, Thomas Stachel, Rod Ewing, Tim Elliott, and the IMA medallist David Green.

The scientific committee consists of one representative of each society.

The local organizing committee: Gerhard Brey, Heidi Höfer

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