

Call for papers

A call for contributions for a special issue of Journal of Cleaner Production addressing ‘Development of Nanotechnology in Light of Sustainability’

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Available online 03 October 2005

Nanotechnology is an enabling technology for a wide variety of traditional scientific disciplines. This had led to high expectations that nanotechnology will be a key technology for improving people’s standards of living, in the short-term by significantly improving existing processes and products and in the long-term by providing revolutionary and life-changing advances across a wide variety of industries from cancer treatment, light-weight materials to renewable energy. However, the novel properties that make nanotechnologies so interesting have also raised many unanswered questions and concerns related to the impacts nanotechnology may have on society and the environment from the vantage point of sustainability.

We invite submissions of papers (8000–9000 words in length) which deal, in depth, with sustainable development in the field of nanotechnology. Sustainable technologies are, in our view, characterized by high benefits, low risks for the short and long-term and which are socially acceptable. The objective of this Special Issue is to publish high quality papers that objectively and critically analyze how the development of nanotechnology may contribute to sustainable development.

Since much of the current literature is focused on disciplinary research as, for example, toxicology and materials science, we especially solicit interdisciplinary and integrative contributions. Because nanotechnology involves such a broad span of disciplines, potential fields and topics, we encourage authors to contribute documents that address multiple disciplinary elements of the potential positive and negative attributes of nanomaterials from a sustainable development perspective as the common denominator.

Potential topics envisioned include but are not limited to:

- Potential (positive and/or negative) impacts of nanotechnology on environmental, human health, social and economic sustainability;

- Ethical, legal and social aspects (ELSA) of nanotechnology development;
- Governance and policy aspects of managing nanotechnologies;
- Evolution and governance of innovation processes;
- Monitoring, assessment and enforcement methodologies;
- Education and training on safe production, usage and end-of-life management of products that contain nanomaterials;
- Case-studies and practical experiences;
- Future studies.

Authors are invited to address the issues from a wide variety of perspectives, although we encourage interdisciplinary analyses of topics that can lead to conclusions and recommendations for different stakeholders, e.g. industry, governments, NGOs and universities on how to ensure that nanotechnological advances lead toward not away from sustainable societies.

Schedule and process for submission of papers

Potential contributors should send their abstracts to Mr. Asgeir Helland (asgeir.helland@empa.ch) or to Dr. Hans Kastenholz (hans.kastenholz@empa.ch) by March 15, 2006. Contributors whose abstracts are selected and found appropriate for this Special Issue will be invited to submit a full manuscript by July 15, 2006. Upon receipt, the manuscripts will be sent out for Peer Review to at least three independent reviewers. The reviewers’ comments and the editorial team’s comments, recommendations and questions will then be sent to the authors of each manuscript. After receiving and accepting the author’s revised version, all selected manuscripts will be published in a SPECIAL ISSUE of JCP.

For further information or to discuss ideas, please contact one of the Guest Editors:

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You may also confer with the Editor-in-Chief of the JCP:

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