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Chemical Industry Fund Honors Researcher from LIKAT

This year's Lecturer Award of the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie (FCI) goes to Dr. Christian Hering-Junghans from the Leibniz Institute for Catalysis, LIKAT. The prize will be presented on Thursday, June 6, in Mainz at the annual meeting of Liebig Fellows. It is endowed with prize money of 25,000 euros and also includes 50,000 euros for material and travel expenses.

Every year, the FCI awards the Lecturer Prize to a particularly qualified person from the next generation of scientists in chemistry and biochemistry. The award recognizes above all “scientific excellence in independent research work and above-average achievements in teaching”.



Dr. habil. Christian Hering-Junghans, born in 1986, led a junior research group at LIKAT from 2017 to 2021 and has been the group leader for “Catalysis with phosphorus-containing materials” since 2022. Catalysts are molecular complexes, often with a metal atom at the center, which can cause even inert substances to react chemically simply by its presence. The way in which the metal atom is “packaged” also influences the chemical reaction.

Dr. Hering-Junghans and his team are researching such packaging, known in technical terms as “ligands”. Phosphorus-containing materials such as phospha-alkenes, in which phosphorus forms a double bond with carbon, are proving to be very promising. The group is also working on little-researched phosphorus-aluminum compounds, which have great potential in non-metal catalysis.

Dr. Christian Hering-Junghans received his doctorate from the University of Rostock in 2014, followed by a post-doctoral stay in Edmonton, Canada, and habilitated in inorganic chemistry in 2023. Last year, he took on a deputy professorship at the Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg alongside his teaching in Rostock.

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