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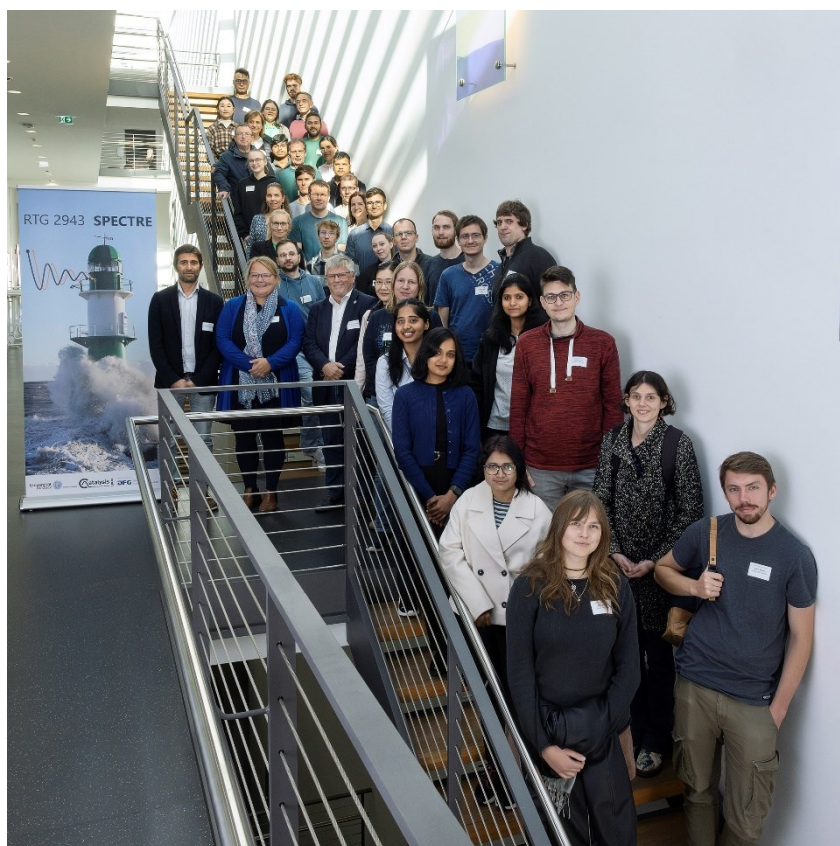
## Starting Signal for new Research Training Group at the University of Rostock and LIKAT: Conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> into Chemical Energy Sources and Carbon-neutral Products

*Leibniz Institute for Catalysis*

(Author: Prof. Dr. Ralf Ludwig)

The new Research Training Group SPECTRE at the University of Rostock has officially started its work with a kick-off meeting. The project is being funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) with over six million euros. Professor Ralf Ludwig, spokesperson of the Research Training Group, and the Vice-Rector of the University, Professor Nicole Wrage-Mönning, were delighted with the approval of the funds, which will be available for the next five years of graduate funding.

After inspiring presentations by guest scientists from Toulouse and Potsdam, the first doctoral students of the Research Training Group presented their research projects. In view of global warming, which is one of the greatest challenges of our time, the development of sustainable technologies to avoid and utilize the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is of crucial importance. The Research Training Group "Spectroscopic Methods for Challenging Reduction Reactions - Catalytic Coupling of CO<sub>2</sub>" (SPECTRE) is dedicated to precisely these challenges and is based at the University of Rostock and the Leibniz Institute for Catalysis (LIKAT).



*Fig. 1: The team of the DFG Research Training Group SPECTRE wants to convert CO<sub>2</sub> into value-adding carbon compounds and thus contribute to climate protection. (Photo: University of Rostock | IT and Media Center).*

"We are particularly keen to promote young female and male scientists and to improve the compatibility of research and family life. Supported by well thought-out equal opportunities measures, many female doctoral students will be able to start a scientific career with us," notes Jola Pospech. The chemist is enthusiastic about the training opportunities offered by a Research Training Group.

The Rostock fellows will benefit from a broad spectrum of experimental and theoretical expertise to develop innovative chemical approaches in a challenging scientific context. Spectroscopic and mechanistic investigations will be carried out at the interface between catalysis, molecular chemistry, physical and theoretical chemistry, physics and mathematics. "As part of the Research Training Group, we will continue to expand our range, particularly in the field of spectroscopic methods," explains Stefan Lochbrunner. One aim is to observe intermediates on the nanosecond time scale.



Fig. 2: The first ten PhD students in the DFG Research Training Group SPECTRE. They were selected from over 60 applications worldwide and come from countries including India, Bangladesh and Iran. (Photo: University of Rostock | IT and Media Center).

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