

Searchable online database of urban nanotechnology now available

Continuing work begun in the previous year, students under the direction of Dr. Arnim Wiek have created a structured data collection called the Nanotechnology in City Environments (NICE) database. The database is composed of expert-reviewed entries of academic research, public reports, advertising materials, technical specifications, and speculative ideas of nanotechnology in urban contexts.

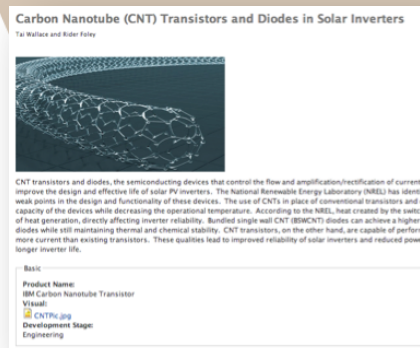
The NICE database catalogs nanotechnologies paying particular attention to functionality, mechanisms of action, potential benefits, potential hazards, urban domain, and development stage. The entries are supplemented by layman's terms summarizing the various technological applications.

As a resource to CNS-ASU as well as interested scholars, professionals, and the general public, the NICE database strives to provide useful information for a variety of user groups. The database has already seen hits worldwide, averaging 130 unique visitors per month in 2013.

In addition to the technological entries, the NICE database contains a detailed bibliography and glossary of nanotechnology-related terms.

A recent uptick in visitors appears to be due in part to the publication of the website's address in the *Journal of Nanoparticle Research* in August 2012.

Visit the NICE database at <http://nice.asu.edu>



Dr. Arnim Wiek's research focuses on the question of how research between scientists and non-academic partners is facilitated and institutionalized to support sustainability.

Along with **Dr. Sander van der Leeuw**, Dr. Wiek leads the Thematic Research Cluster (TRC 2) on Urban Design, Materials and the Built Environment which investigates the nano-enabled city of the future.