

Press Release

Oxford Instruments
NanoScience
Tubney Woods, Abingdon
OX13 5QX
Tel: 01865 393 200
Fax: 01865 303 333
Email: nanoscience@oxinst.com



www.oxford-instruments.com

Release date: 21st of April 2010

Winner announced for the 2010 Nicholas Kurti European Science Prize.

We are delighted to announce that Dr Christian Rüegg from the London Centre for Nanotechnology and Department of Physics and Astronomy at University College London is the 2010 recipient of the Nicholas Kurti European Science Prize.

During his time at ETH Zurich, and now as Reader and Royal Society University Research Fellow at University College London, Christian Rüegg has pioneered experimental work on a number of prototypical magnetic model materials, including low-dimensional arrays of quantum spins, so called spin dimer and ladder systems. Using mainly neutron spectroscopy in combination with high magnetic fields and low temperatures he was able to explore and control the exotic ground states and elementary excitations of magnetic matter near fundamental quantum phase transitions. Furthermore, he is a leading figure in an international collaboration, which ranges from synthetic chemists working on the discovery of new materials to leading theorists contributing to the interpretation of the fascinating physics realized in novel quantum magnets.

Professor George Pickett of Lancaster University, chairman of the committee of senior scientists who assess the nominations, commented: "There was a very strong field of candidates for this year's Kurti prize, but the work of Christian Ruegg on quantum phase transitions and novel phases in magnetic materials was adjudged the best by a majority of the panel."

The Nicholas Kurti European Science Prize, sponsored by Oxford Instruments, is intended to recognise and promote outstanding achievements of young scientists in the field of physical sciences research and to support their career development. It is named after Professor Nicholas Kurti known for his distinguished work in ultra-low temperature physics at the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford University. The prize winner receives a €8000 cash prize, a unique trophy and certificate. The winner also has the opportunity to present his work at a conference of his choice.

Previous winners of the prize include Prof. Lieven Vandersypen, Dr. Silvano De Franceschi, Dr. Andreas Wallraff, Dr. Kostantin Novoselov and Dr. John Morton.

More information on the prize can be found at: www.oxford-instruments.com/scienceprize
Issued for and on behalf of Oxford Instruments NanoScience

For further information and electronic copies of the images please contact:

Sophie Walker
Marketing Communications Manager
Oxford Instruments NanoScience
e. sophie.walker@oxinst.com
t. +44 (0)1865 393349
f. +44 (0)1865 393333 Release date : 2010

Notes to Editors

About Oxford Instruments NanoScience and Oxford Instruments plc.

Internationally recognised as world leaders in superconductivity and ultra low temperature cryogenic environments, Oxford Instruments NanoScience is driving innovation in these fields. The company's leading-edge technologies support research in nanotechnology, solid state and condensed matter physics. Combining outstanding technical expertise, original thinking and a commitment to meeting customers' needs, Oxford Instruments NanoScience enables real advances both in research and commercial applications by providing the high quality technological environments needed to meet demanding experimental requirements. Oxford Instruments NanoScience is part of the Oxford Instruments plc group.

Oxford Instruments aims to pursue responsible development and deeper understanding of our world through science and technology. We provide high technology tools and systems for industrial and research markets, based on our ability to analyse and manipulate matter at the smallest scale. Innovation has been the driving force behind Oxford Instruments' growth and success for over 50 years, and its strategy is to effect the successful commercialisation of these ideas by bringing them to market in a timely and customer-focused fashion.

The first technology business to be spun out from Oxford University over fifty years ago, Oxford Instruments is now a global company with over 1,300 staff worldwide and a listing on the London Stock Exchange (OXIG).

Our objective is to be a leading supplier of next generation tools and systems for research and industry. This involves the combination of core technologies in areas such as low temperature and high magnetic field environments, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, X-ray electron and optical based metrology, and advanced growth, deposition and etching. Our products, expertise, and ideas address global issues such as energy, environment, terrorism and health and are part of the next generation of telecommunications, energy products, environmental measures, security devices, drug discovery and medical advances.