



From idea to marketable product: **Bosch joins “High-Tech Startup Fund”**

January 18, 2007
PI 5738 RB Pr/Hb

- ▶ Federal Minister Michael Glos thanks Bosch for its “confidence in Germany as a high-tech location”
- ▶ Bosch also active in “Wissensfabrik,” “Jugend forscht,” and “acatech” initiatives

STUTTGART – The Bosch Group has become one of the backers of the “High-Tech Startup Fund.” The High-Tech Startup Fund makes venture capital available for young technology companies with a promising future. It provides the necessary start-up capital for newly founded companies in the technology sector, and makes sure that their managers get the supervision and support they need. Bosch’s contribution to the fund is a one-off payment totaling 2.5 million euros. “We want to give young entrepreneurs the backing they need to translate good ideas into marketable products,” said Dr. Siegfried Dais, the deputy chairman of the Bosch board of management with responsibility for product planning and technology as well as research and development.

The High-Tech Startup is backed by industry, the KfW (reconstruction loan corporation) bank group, and the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. Michael Glos, the Federal Minister of Economics and Technology, thanked Bosch for its “confidence in Germany as a high-tech location.” “I am sure that investing in this fund will pay off, both strategically and in the long term,” Glos said.

Bosch has traditionally regarded the support of young academic talent as its social obligation: “Bosch wants to play its part in promoting young talent at an early age and in kindling interest in technology, the sciences, and business,” Dais said. This is why Bosch, as a sponsoring company, will be organizing the Baden-Württemberg heat of the “Jugend forscht” competition for young research talent in March 2007, the 22nd successive time it has done so. In addition, Bosch is a founding member of

“Wissensfabrik – Unternehmen für Deutschland.” Under the auspices of this initiative, some 25 educational projects have already been started with kindergartens and schools. In the medium term, the company hopes to establish as many as 50 educational partnerships across Germany. Bosch is also active in acatech (the German Academy of Engineering and Technology).

Press contact:

Dr. Michael Preuss, Tel. (+49) 711-811-6631

The Bosch Group is a leading global manufacturer of automotive and industrial technology, consumer goods, and building technology. In fiscal 2005, some 251,000 associates generated sales of 41.5 billion euros. Set up in Stuttgart in 1886 by Robert Bosch (1861-1942) as “Workshop for Precision Mechanics and Electrical Engineering,” the Bosch Group today comprises a manufacturing, sales, and after-sales service network of more than 280 subsidiaries and some 13,000 Bosch Service Centers in over 140 countries.

The special ownership structure of the Bosch Group guarantees its financial independence and entrepreneurial freedom. It makes it possible for the company to undertake significant up-front investments in safeguarding its future, as well as to do justice to its social responsibility in a manner reflective of the spirit and will of its founder. A total of 92% of the share capital of Robert Bosch GmbH is held by the charitable foundation Robert Bosch Stiftung. The entrepreneurial ownership functions are carried out by Robert Bosch Industrietreuhand KG.

Additional information can be accessed at www.bosch.com.