

PRESS RELEASE

Opening bell for JPK School - enthusiastic response for the first session

Berlin, February 21th, 2006 - February 13 was the opening day of the first JPK Instruments School for atomic force microscopy (AFM). Under the banner "AFM user training for biological applications", researchers and scientists from among JPK clients gathered at the company's headquarters in Berlin's Bouchéstrasse for the school's first session.

Over the course of two days, the international group focused on AFM application and operation. A broad spectrum of uses was covered in the dense program, ranging from the imaging of cells, bacteria and lipids, through specialized techniques such as force spectroscopy applications and nanomanipulation, up to practical tips for handling this advanced instrument platform. Included in the curriculum were the preparation of biological specimens such as DNA and lipids, as well as hardware and software. The JPK application engineers made sure there was plenty of time for the participants to ask questions related to their specializations.

JPK had already created one of the most important AFM events in the international life sciences with its annual workshop "Scanning Probe Microscopy in Life Sciences". The new JPK School means that the manufacturer of the world's foremost BioAFM is reasserting its expertise in nano life sciences while providing clients with a special service. "There are many potential applications in the life sciences that have not yet been discovered. We want to boost our clients' knowledge by letting them share our application and technical know-how." This is how Dr. Gabriela Bagordo, communication manager at JPK, describes the school's goal. And success has proved the company right. The combination of lectures and practical work on the instruments themselves has earned a great deal of applause. "A fantastic confirmation for our idea, and of course an encouragement to continue," says Dr. Bagordo. "To be continued" is written all over it. With future topics such as life cell imaging on the curriculum, participants will be brought even closer to life in the nano-cosmos.

About JPK Instruments AG:

JPK Instruments AG is a leading manufacturer of nanoanalytic instruments - particularly atomic force microscope (AFM) systems - for research in life sciences and soft matter. One of Germany's most innovative nanotechnology companies, JPK was among the first to recognize the revolutionary opportunities this new field would open up for biomedical and pharmaceutical research. From the beginning, JPK has tailored its instrument platforms to meet the challenges these areas would face.

JPK has developed powerful state-of-the-art solutions for high-resolution imaging, force measurement, nanomanipulation and nanolithography for life science applications. At the center of JPK's current portfolio are the BioAFM NanoWizard®, the CellHesion® module (for studying cell adhesion and cell mechanics phenomena), and the TAO module (for use in optical spectroscopy).

The secret of JPK's success is its high level of application expertise and its close interaction with leading scientists and research centers in nanotechnology. Founded in 1999, the company is headquartered in Berlin and maintains a global network of distributors and support centers. In 2005 it launched nAmbition GmbH, a Dresden subsidiary specializing in the development of nano instruments for application in molecular medicine and pharmaceutical research.

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