

JOB POSTING

Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Training Network "TheLink" (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014) to Accelerate the Development Chain of Nanostructured Polymers

Recruiting organisation: Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology, Germany

Subproject title: Volumetric characterization of the nano- and microconfiguration of nanocomposites with conductive fillers by dielectric spectroscopy

Starting date: 1st June 2015 (or earlier if preferred)

Background information:

Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Training Networks (ETNs) are joint research and training projects funded by the European Union. Funding is provided for postgraduate researchers from both inside and outside Europe to carry out individual project work in a European country other than their own.

The training network "TheLink" is made up of 10 partners, coordinated by the Fraunhofer ICT in Germany. The network will recruit a total of 15 postgraduates for project work lasting for 36 months.

Nanostructured polymers, composites and phase-separated materials are attracting scientific and industrial interest due to the outstanding properties and functionalities that can be achieved. However, in order to exploit their potential an in-depth understanding of the relationship between nano/micro structures and macro-level properties is required. TheLink therefore aims to generate this knowledge along the material development chain from design to production, combining the disciplines of simulation, characterization and processing. The postgraduate researchers recruited by the network will move the development of polymeric nanomaterials towards a knowledge-based, industrially-feasible approach. Three case studies (phase separated polymers, separation membranes, composites for electrical conductivity/self-diagnosis/EMI shielding) will be used to guide research and training and to demonstrate the project developments.

The advertised subproject will be carried out by one postgraduate ("early-stage researcher") at the Fraunhofer ICT over a period of 36 months.

The objective of the proposed subproject is the development of an easy-to-use measurement technology for the nano- and micromorphology of nanocomposites with conductive nanostructures based on the determination of dielectric properties. This volume-averaging measurement technique will be applied to solid composite materials and melts under different shear and load conditions. The dielectric response will be correlated with the material's macroscopic observable electrical conductivities and with the nanoscopic and microscopic configurations of the composites simulated by another early-stage research in the network and measured by microscopic methods as well as OCT and other newly-developed techniques.

This subproject is fully funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie European Training Network "TheLink" (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2014). The recruited researcher will have the opportunity to work as part of an international, interdisciplinary team of 15 postgraduates, based at universities and industrial firms throughout Europe. He/she will receive theoretical and

practical training in the three project disciplines of simulation, characterization and processing. He/she is expected to finish the project with a PhD thesis and to disseminate the results through patents (if applicable), publications in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at international conferences.

Requirements:

Qualifications / experience:

- Early-stage researcher: a researcher without a PhD, who is in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of his/her research career, measured from the date when he/she obtained the degree which would formally entitle him/her to embark on a doctorate.
- Graduate degree in the technical area or in the natural sciences (Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Materials Sciences, Plastics Engineering, Physics)
- Open for an interdisciplinary approach regarding computational sciences, engineering and measurement techniques
- The ability to work in an internationally-oriented environment, including fluency in English

Mobility:

- The applicant must not have resided or carried out his/her main activity (work, studies etc.) in Germany for more than 12 months in the past three years.

How to apply:

Please send your CV by post or e-mail to the following address, quoting the reference "TheLink-ICT-ESR1":

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Application deadline: 1st February 2015