

## Greeting to the 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium „Magnetoresistive Sensors and Magnetic Systems“

The 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium promises to be a special „highlight“. Since the last symposium two years ago many things have happened.

Together with his French colleague Professor Albert Fert, Professor Dr. Peter Grünberg has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for the discovery of the GMR effect. It is thanks to this discovery and the application of this effect in computer technology that it has been possible to minimize computer hard disks so radically and to increase the memory capacity of PCs so enormously in recent years.



Due to the publicity following the awarding of the Nobel Prize the general awareness regarding MR technology has extended well beyond the MR community. In this time MR sensors have become established as a major enabling technology in a wide range of applications, such as in the field of automation, automotive, non-destructive material testing, security technology, bio and medical technology as well as the major new subject AAL (Ambient Assisted Living).

The foundation of INNOMAG e. V. was another milestone. This innovation platform for magnetic micro systems and magnetic micro- and nanotechnology brings suppliers and users of these technologies together and serves to open new application potential. By supporting the co-operation between research and commercial enterprises this platform is already helping to convert the potential of this technology more quickly into innovations and thereby in the creation of jobs in Germany and Europe. One of the immediate success stories from INNOMAG is the BMBF-call for projects in the field of magnetic micro- and nanotechnologies. No less than 17 R & D projects have already been initiated in this field. Professor Grünberg supports the activities of INNOMAG as an honorary member and is also a participant of this year's symposium.

The symposia in Wetzlar have always set new impulses and have been the source of many successful projects and product developments. I am sure that the 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium will continue this tradition. With this in mind I wish you all fruitful discussions and hope that you receive new ideas and new information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karl-Heinz Lust'.

Karl-Heinz Lust

Lahnau, 2nd March 2009