



## Press Briefing, September 7, 2016

### **IPW8: International conference explores the current state of phosphorus research**



Phosphorus is a limited resource, which is irreplaceable especially in agriculture. However, through sewage plants and runoff from agricultural land an excess of phosphorus reaches freshwater and marine water bodies, causing environmental disruptions such as intensive algal blooms amongst other negative eutrophication consequences. It is therefore imperative, to discuss the research progress concerning the vital question of how phosphorus can be utilized sustainably in the face of finite reserves and without severe environmental damage.

This question provides the overarching theme for the 8th International Phosphorus Workshop (IPW8), which will be held in Rostock, Germany, from September 12 to 16, 2016. The conference title "Phosphorus 2020 — Challenges for synthesis, agriculture, and ecosystems" indicates the broad and interdisciplinary scope of the workshop that will be attended by over 230 experts coming from more than 30 different countries. The workshop addresses topics like innovative phosphorus recycling technologies, efficiency enhancement of phosphorus utilisation in agriculture, the synthesis of new phosphorus compounds, novel analytical methods as well as the detection of diffuse phosphorus sources and their assessment regarding their impact on the environment.

The international phosphorus workshop (IPW) is one of the most important expert meetings of European phosphorus research and takes place every three years, each time in a different European country. This year it is the first time that an IPW conference is hosted in Germany. The event is organised by the Leibniz Science Campus Phosphorus Research Rostock, which is a consortium of five Leibniz institutes as well as Rostock University. Conference venue is the university's audimax, Ulmenstraße 69, 18057 Rostock.

For the detailed conference programme, please check:

[www.sciencecampus-rostock.de/ipw8/scientific-programm/programme-overview.html](http://www.sciencecampus-rostock.de/ipw8/scientific-programm/programme-overview.html)



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**Leibniz Science Campus Phosphorus Research Rostock**

As phosphorus plays such a vital role in numerous production and environmental systems, it is necessary to pursue an interdisciplinary approach in phosphorus research. This is the starting point of the Leibniz Science Campus Phosphorus Research Rostock: By combining expert knowledge from various disciplines, five Leibniz institutes together with Rostock University have formed a powerful research network, which aims at finding solutions and strategies for the challenges posed by the many issues concerning sustainable and environmentally responsible phosphorus utilization. The science campus provides the basis for a comprehensive investigation of the essential element phosphorus, its diverse chemical compounds and its modes of action in agriculture and the environment as well as in technical and industrial processes. Along with basic and applied research new technologies for phosphorus use are being developed and subsequently transferred to the economy. The science campus is funded by the Leibniz Association and the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment and Consumer Protection, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.