



# EMBL

## Press Release

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For immediate release

## 25th Birthday gift: BMBF pledges 1 million Euro for new electron microscope at EMBL

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*German Research Ministry pledges 1 million Euro for the purchase of an electron microscope*

The German "Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung" (BMBF) will give the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) 1 million Euro for the purchase of a new electron microscope. The gift was announced by Parliamentary Secretary Christoph Matschie, on Saturday, June 28, at a festival honoring the 25th anniversary of the opening of EMBL's main laboratory in Heidelberg, Germany. "Now that the human genome has been decoded, genomic research will have to piece together single pieces of information into a holistic understanding of living processes," Matschie said. The new microscope should help biologists, engineers, mathematicians, physicists, and informaticists to work out physiological processes in cells.

The German government sees its support of cutting-edge research as a prerequisite for a competitive economy. "Political support for innovation is therefore a central goal of this government," Matschie said. EMBL's establishment 25 years ago was an important cornerstone in the development of European basic research. He added that EMBL has played a leading role in the current revolution in the molecular life sciences – conceptually, methodologically, and technically.

EMBL is supported by contributions from sixteen member states. Germany's annual contribution at the current time totals 14 million Euro. This amounts to approximately a fourth of EMBL's total budget.

## 16 EMBL member States:



(and Ireland!)

## About EMBL

The EMBL is an international organization founded in 1974 with its headquarters in Heidelberg and other European sites at Hamburg, Hinxton, Monterotondo and Grenoble. The EMBL's mission is to conduct basic research in molecular biology (currently conducted by 105 faculty member in 9 Programmes or Outstations); to provide essential services to scientists in its Member States; to provide high-level training to its students, staff and visitors; and to develop new instrumentation and methods for biological research. The vast majority of EMBL's scientific and administrative personnel are on term contracts and are expected to leave the institution, usually to a destination in a Member State; when they do so, they carry along a unique combination of experience and skills. The scientific networks created by EMBL alumni have contributed heavily to the development of a truly international scientific community throughout Europe. EMBL pursues a proactive technology transfer policy through its wholly-owned commercialization company, EMBLEM GmbH.

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