

10-10-2006



Institut für Quantenoptik und Quanteninformation
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Prestigious Award

**Rainer Blatt receives the
Erwin-Schrödinger-Preis 2006**

On Friday, October 13, 2006, Prof. Rainer Blatt received the Erwin-Schrödinger-Preis of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The award recognises the outstanding scientific achievements of the Innsbruck-based experimental physicist in the field of experimental nuclear physics, quantum optics and quantum information. The award ceremony took place at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna.

Prof. Rainer Blatt is director of the Institute for Experimental Physics at the University of Innsbruck as well as managing and research director of the Institute of Quantum Optics and Quantum Information of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. In recent years he drew international attention to his many experiments aimed at realising a quantum computer based on trapped ions. In 2004 he and his team managed to demonstrate the first ever teleportation with atoms. Last year the scientists produced a so-called „quantum byte“ for the first time. Realising a quantum byte is considered an important step on the way towards a quantum computer. Prof. Blatt is also very successful as a teacher and in his support of young scientists. Three of his students won a START prize and in recent years no fewer than four of his assistants were appointed to chairs at universities abroad. In his efforts to encourage new blood into the natural sciences, Rainer Blatt regularly offers interested secondary school teachers and pupils glimpses into the latest developments in physics.

Successful team player

Prof. Blatt stresses that, “when I receive this prestigious award I do so as a representative of my entire team. Our successes were made possible by a congenial environment and the close cooperation of scientists.” Rainer Blatt was born in 1952 in Idar-Oberstein, Germany, and studied physics at the University of Mainz. After research posts in Boulder, Colorado, as well as in Berlin and Hamburg, he was appointed to a chair at the University of Göttingen in 1994. A year later he received a call to the University of Innsbruck where he has taught and researched ever since. He is married and has three



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children. The Erwin-Schrödinger-Preis of the Austrian Academy of Sciences is worth 15,000 Euros and has been awarded since 1956.

Ideal research environment

Close cooperation of theoreticians and experimental physicists as well as gathering highly qualified researchers around professors Rainer Blatt, Hans J. Briegel, Rudolf Grimm and Peter Zoller have made Innsbruck a centre of excellence for quantum physics. Essential support has come from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, which set up the Institute of Quantum Optics and Quantum Information, from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), which created an Austria-wide special research area (SFB), as well as from the European Union, the province of Tyrol, the city of Innsbruck and Tyrolean industry.

You can find pictures of Prof. Blatt on: <http://www.iqoqi.at/media/download/>

For further information, please contact:

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