

ThyssenKrupp Ideas Park Attracts Record Numbers

Celebration of superlatives delights over 320,000 visitors in Essen



With displays spread across an area of 60,000 square meters, more than 400 hands-on exhibits and around 1,500 scientists, engineers, students and trainees manning the stands, the ThyssenKrupp Ideas Park was once again a resounding success. Max Planck scientists also enjoyed the 13-day event that was packed with meetings and discussions. The stand hosted by the Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics showed children and grown-ups how to make magnets out of nails, copper wire and batteries while teaching them all about the function and importance of magnets in a fusion power station. The Max Planck Institute für Eisenforschung allowed visitors to try their strength and test the forming capabilities of a variety of steels, while the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces used Lego bricks to simulate nature's construction principles. The building project in particular aroused the ambitions of visitors, many of whom invested several hours in creating models based on the principle of hierarchical structures.

The ThyssenKrupp Ideas Park fires the imagination with a host of hands-on opportunities to interact with science.

Photos: ThyssenKrupp AG (top), Jonas Steengaard (bottom)

First Max Planck Research Groups in Africa

Alex Sigal and Thumbi Ndung'u have been appointed to lead two new research groups at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology. The groups will operate for between five and a maximum of nine years, conducting basic research into HIV and tuberculosis. They will also benefit from close proximity to centers of infection. "In southern Africa, tuberculosis and HIV are life-threatening issues. If we want to cure these diseases, we need to work in the countries in which they are most prevalent. In this way, laboratory and clinical stud-

ies can proceed successfully hand in hand, with information passing from the sick bed to the test tube and back again, as it were," emphasized Max Planck Society President Peter Gruss. The two research groups will be located at the newly established KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV in Durban, South Africa. The institute is a joint project of the University of KwaZulu-Natal and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in the US, and is dedicated exclusively to the study of HIV and tuberculosis.

Stefan H. E. Kaufmann, Director at the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology in Berlin, is the driving force behind the Max Planck Society's research efforts in South Africa.

