Professor Gerd Meyer
Recipient of the Fourteenth Frank H. Spedding Award

Professor Dr. Gerd Meyer, Universität Köln, is the recipient of the 14th Frank H. Spedding Award for *Outstanding Contributions to Science and Technology of the Rare Earths*. The Spedding Award is sponsored by the 26th Rare Earth Research Conference and Bracco Research USA and will be presented to Prof. Meyer at the meeting to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, June 19-23, 2011 (http://rerc.newmexicoconsortium.org/).

The Spedding award is in principle bestowed every three years during the international Rare Earth Research Conference (RERC). This prestigious award is given in recognition of excellence and achievement in research centered on the science and technology of rare earths. The awardee is selected by a committee from submitted nominations and the award consists of a medal mounted on a plaque and a monetary sum.

Prof. Dr. Gerd Meyer has made outstanding contributions to the solid state chemistry of f-elements for more than 30 years and has substantially influenced and impacted this research area. After completion of his doctoral work with Prof. Dr. Rudolf Hoppe at the Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen on solid state transition metal compounds in 1972, he choose the solid state chemistry of f-elements for his own independent work. He worked as a postdoc in 1980 with Prof. J. D. Corbett at Iowa State University and in 1982 he completed his Habilitation on the

"Synthesis and Crystal Chemistry of Complex Halides of f-elements." From 1977-1988 he served as Akademischer Rat at the Justus-Liebig-Universität in Gießen. In 1988 he moved to a full professor position at the Leibniz-Universität Hannover (after having turned down an offer from the University of Groningen, NL). Since 1996 he has held the chair for solid state and coordination chemistry at the Universität Köln. He has received numerous awards, where in the context of f-element chemistry, the Terrae Rarae Award in 2005 is the most noteworthy.

Prof. Meyer's research interests include synthesis, structures, and properties of solids and coordination compounds of rare-earth and transition metals. He has published more than 550 papers and edited a number of books.

Prof. Meyer has also worked for the scientific community. He has organized the "Tage der Seltenen Erden/Terrae Rarae" meetings four times and has hardly missed any of the Rare Earth Research Conferences in the US or the European International Conferences on f-Elements. He hosted ICFE 2009 in Cologne.

Excerpts from his nomination letters further describe Prof. Meyer's outstanding career:

> "During the four decades of Professor Gerd Meyer's research career, he has been a leader in carrying out syntheses of pure rare earth compounds, many traditional ones and many novel ones with reduced cations, metal-metal bonding, and clusters. He and his students have characterized these compounds structurally, identifying and classifying the bonding motifs of the 4f elements. They have also elucidated electronic and luminescent properties of rare earth ions in many of these compounds. In so doing he has educated over 60 doctoral students and seven Habilitation researchers."
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> "In appreciation of one of his articles "Synthetic Milestones in f Element Inorganic Chemistry" published in *Terrae Rarae 2009*, I wrote:
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> 'This paper highlights the chemical ingenuity and craftsmanship of Professor Gerd Meyer and his inorganic chemistry colleagues who have extended the tradition of synthesis of pure rare earth and actinide compounds. Inorganic synthesis is an intellectual discipline that is essential to most chemical, materials science, and solid state physics research. It requires broad understanding of principles of chemical thermodynamics, kinetics, acid-base chemistry, and chemical bonding relationships, as well as specialized skills and intuition that few scientists have mastered.'"

Prof. Meyer will present a lecture on the highlights of his work at the 26th RERC meeting as part of an award symposium in his honor.