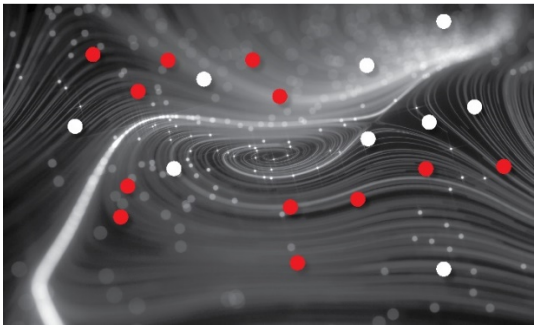
Newsletter for NWO-I employees

Nederlandse versie van deze nieuwsbrief.
Click **here** to read the newsletter as PDF on the NWO-I website.

Portfolio evaluation of KNAW and NWO institutes

Evaluation Committee says institutes system has significant added value

At the behest of the Academy and NWO, an independent committee has evaluated the portfolio of the two organisations' institutes. The Committee concludes that these national research institutes increase the effectiveness of Dutch scientific endeavour. On 21 February, the directors of the Academy and NWO presented the report, with their response to it, to Minister Van Engelshoven of Education, Culture and Science.



Read more >

Wim van Saarloos and Stan Gielen are confident

Wim van Saarloos (left) and Stan Gielen (right)

Stan Gielen and Wim van Saarloos, the heads of NWO and KNAW, were closely involved in the portfolio evaluation. How do they look back on the process and what are their expectations for the future?

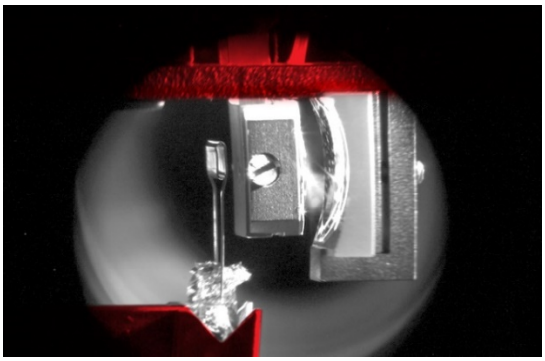
Read more >

Meet Dmitry Kurilovich, PhD student at ARCNL
Small tin droplets to create great computer chips

Dmitry Kurilovich (29) was one of the first PhD students to start working at NWO Institute ARCNL (Advanced Research Center for Nanolithography) in 2014. This spring he will defend his thesis at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Kurilovich was fascinated by plasma physics at high school in Russia and he ended up building the experimental set-up that is at the very heart of ARCNL. In January he already started working for ASML as an experimental physicist. However, he expects to be in contact with ARCNL quite often. 'Since the research themes at ARCNL are inspired by the lithography industry, my work will be closely related.'

Read more >

Highlight DIFFER:
intractable catalyst problem solved after 40 years



In the test setup, the platinum catalyst reflects light under an ultra-high vacuum. The platinum crystal has a diameter of 8 mm, approximately the size of a fingernail. Credits: Richard van Lent/ Leiden University

Catalysts are used in all sorts of chemical processes to accelerate reactions. They often consist of small metal particles that are dispersed over a carrier. Platinum is one of the best catalysts to accelerate reactions with hydrogen, something that is essential in CO_2-neutral hydrogen cars. However, the speed of the reaction depends on the structure of the platinum surface. The question is, which research model can best be used to predict this reaction and then improve it? After 40 years, the debate is at an end and a model has emerged as the best outcome. Chemist Ludo Juurlink, NWO-I PhD student Richard van Lent (both Leiden University) and Michael Gleeson (NWO Institute DIFFER) have confirmed the right way to model catalytic reactions.

Read more >

News from the NWO Central Works Council: introducing Alexandra Buijs

Alexandra Buijs represents NWO-D within the COR NWO. She has been working in the NWO Domain Applied and Engineering Sciences as a management assistant for six years and recently joined the office of TKI HTSM (Top Consortia for Knowledge and Innovation for the top sector High-Tech Systems & Materials). 'It's only now I'm in the COR that I've realised how great the diversity is within the organisation. I also become involved in the processes and decisions of the executive board. One is right at the heart of things in a sense.'

Read more >

About NWO-I

NWO-I, the Institutes Organisation of NWO, is an independent foundation belonging to NWO. The following nine institutes are part of NWO-I: AMOLF, ARCNL, ASTRON, CWI, DIFFER, Nikhef, NIOZ, NSCR and SRON. The 200-plus workgroups in which physics research takes place at Dutch universities and knowledge institutes are also part of NWO-I.

Contact

NWO-I
www.nwo-i.nl
info-nwoi@nwo.nl
(030) 600 1211

Follow NWO: