



Ordinary for Business Communication and Nanotechnology (TU Munich)
Director General of Deutsches Museum Munich

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang M. Heckl was born in 1958 and is director general of the Deutsches Museum and managing director of the Excellence Network Nanobiotechnology (ENNaB) in Munich. His work as biophysicist focuses on nanosciences and scanning probe microscopy.

Heckl studied physics and received his Ph.D. at the Munich Institute for Biophysics in 1988. After research stays at the University of Toronto and at IBM, Heckl finished his postdoctoral studies in physics in 1993 and became professor for experimental physics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich.

In the same year Heckl was awarded the Philip-Morris Research Prize for his studies on the structural clarification of DNA bases. He also received an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records named "World's smallest hole" for writing an atomic bit. Heckl wishes to improve the presentation of scientific matters to general public. Therefore he actively communicates science via TV, radio and print media. In 2002 the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft awarded Heckl the Communicator-Prize for his efforts on the improvement of the public communication of scientific results. In 2004 the European Commission awarded him the René-Descartes Prize.

In 2006 Heckl was Chairman of the European Science Open Forum's Steering Committee in Munich and in 2008 he was awarded the Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande of the Federal Republic of Germany and the County Award of the county Neumarkt. Since 2007 he regularly appears in the German talk show "Sonntags Stammtisch" and since 2009 Heckl holds the Oskar von Miller-Chair for Business Communication at the Munich Technical University.

Heckl's more than 100 papers and scientific speeches have brought his knowledge in a clear and easy to understand way to a broad public. He took various patents in the field of optics and nanotechnology. Heckl is a member of various national and international committees and advisor for both, the European Commission and the federal government of Germany. He was a pupil of Nobel Prize Winners Gerd Binnig and Theodor Hänsch.

Topics (Selection):

- The possibilities of nanotechnology - from science to investment
- Nanotechnology as an Example for Innovation
- The Value Chain from the Children's Section in the Deutsches Museum to the Nobel Prize
- Communication – A Key Technology