

### WHAT A SMALL WORLD!

Under blue sky and summer temperatures, the NanoHand project, has been started at the University of Oldenburg from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

NanoHand, which is partially funded by the European Commission, DG INFSO, is an Integrated Project aiming at the development of microrobotic systems (consisting of micro/nano based subsystems) for automated handling of nanometer sized objects like carbon nanotubes (CNT) or nanowires (NW). Up to now the carbon nanotubes are an important model- nanostructure since their properties are well researched, but can be manipulated only on a single basis. Hence, solving the problem of handling carbon nanotubes efficiently and in an automated way may be generalised to the vast number of other nanowires and related objects. NanoHand will provide industrial technology to handle single nano-objects thus providing tools for the industrial production of new nano-enabled ICT products and services.

NanoHand is coordinated by Kuratorium OFFIS e.V. and involves 12 European partners consisting of 3 renowned research institutes: EMPA, the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research, MIC, the National Center for Nano- and Microtechnology at the Technical University of Denmark, EPFL, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; STMicroelectronics, a global independent semiconductor company and 7 very innovative small and medium sized enterprises: CSEM, Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology, VDI/VDE IT GmbH, Berlin, FUTUREtec GmbH, Bergisch Gladbach, Dr. Volker Klocke Nanotechnik, Aachen, Tescan, Czech Republic, Nascatec GmbH, Kassel and EurExcel, the European Association of Innovating SMEs and a forward thinking subcontractor: InGentibus Foundation e.V..

This consortium combines the European knowledge and competence needed to find the answer to a problem, which is still a step behind industrial usage.