

**Press Release
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Further Information:

[Fraunhofer-Bessel
Research Award](#)

New research award for top-flight academics from the USA

Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award granted for the first time by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft .

The Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award, which is being granted for the first time this year by the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft and the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, will be conferred annually on up to three distinguished scientists and scholars from the USA in recognition of their research achievements. The awards are valued at up to 55,000 EUR. Exceptional academic success, a position at the level of at least an associate or assistant professor and an upper age limit of 45 are the preconditions for nomination. Award winners are invited to spend a period of six months to one full year working together with specialist colleagues on a research project of their own choice at one of the 58 Fraunhofer Institutes. Academics of other nationalities may also be nominated, providing they have been living in the USA for more than five years at the time of nomination and have their main focus of academic activity in the USA.

The objective of the award is to strengthen German-American research cooperation and give a boost to the applied sciences in Germany. "Europe and Germany are becoming ever more attractive for top-rank academics who always used to see their future largely in the USA. The award is supposed to encourage this trend", the President of the Humboldt Foundation, Professor Wolfgang Frühwald, comments.

"We want the Fraunhofer-Bessel Research Award to create a cristallisation nucleus for new cooperation and projects", Professor Hans-Jörg Bullinger, President of the Fraunhofer Gesellschaft explains. "Our aim is to continue developing the existing networking between Fraunhofer Institutes and US-research institutions and also make new contacts". The award contributes to expanding the activities of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft in the USA and supporting the brain-gain on behalf of Germany as a place of research. Nominations may be submitted immediately.

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation enables more than 1,800 researchers from all over the world to spend time researching in Germany every year. The Foundation maintains a network of more than 20,000 Humboldtians from all disciplines in 130 countries world-wide.