

NSTI Nanotech 2009 May 3-7th Houston – Some insights

Abstract

NSTI (Nano Science and Technology Institute) Nanotech Conference & Expo 2009 was the 12th annual NSTI nanotech conference and trade show participated by 250 exhibitors and 5,000 technology and business leaders and experts from industry, academia, and government. Held on 3-7 May 2009 in Houston, Texas, USA, it was one of the world's largest annual nanotechnology conference and expo covering many activities from hundreds of presentations, exhibition, networking, and workshops on the industrial impacts of nanotechnology, including medical and life sciences, electronics, energy and clean-tech, advanced materials, innovation and commercialization, and many others. In this article, we share with the readers our insights about the event.

I have been attending the NSTI (Nano Science and Technology Institute) Nanotech conference and exhibition since 2005. From 2008 onwards, the event included Clean Technology Conference & Expo and TechConnect Summit when the founder of NSTI Dr Matthew Laudon founded the Clean Energy and Sustainable Industries Organization (CTSI). Our first coverage of NSTI nanotech 2005 can be viewed at www.nanoworld.jp/apnw/articles/3-22.php (I stopped writing my column of Asia Pacific Nanotech Weekly in 2006). I admired Matthew and his team vision and capability of putting together such largest scale events where people like us are able to learn the latest development in almost everything one should learn about nanotechnology and cleantech in the areas of basic research, application, commercialization, business strategy and investment opportunities. Most importantly of all, it is a fantastic networking platform for us who are willing to fly 24 hrs from Singapore to the USA. I am also impressed by the number and quality of sponsors the NSTI and CTSI team are able to convince to support the event.

Since I started attending NSTI Nanotech events in 2005, I have seen countries such as Australia, Germany, Italy, Korea, and Switzerland which have been the main international exhibitors. This year, we saw RusNano, an organization operating 5 billion USD nanotech commercialization initiative joined the event and was a platinum sponsor. Rusnano has been aggressively promoting its organization and reaching out for global partnerships. Nanotechnology application (catalyst for example) in oil and gas seems to be an obvious priority for Rusnano investments. Areas such as Photovoltaic, optoelectronics and nuclear medicine for cancer treatment are of great interest to Rusnano. Dr Chubais especially emphasized that Rusnano focuses on business to help the growth of nanotech impact in economy and is non political. Rusnano is not targeting at profit but revenue to create employment and innovation.

My favorite place at the show was the TechConnect zone where I discovered 2 Graphene companies which surprised me how advanced commercialization of Graphene has reached today. Both Angstrom Materials and Vorbeck Materials claimed mass production of Nano Graphene Platelets (NGP, produced by Angstrom) and Graphene (produced by Vorbeck) in scale of tons. Exciting application has been shown including conductive Ink for printed electronics, graphene additives for strong conductive plastics/rubber composites, and functionalized graphene battery electrodes for high powered and long lasting battery. More exciting applications including interconnects, conductive thin films and others are being developed.

Even though the annual Tokyo nanotech 200X conference and exhibition is world nanotech largest trade show with over 600 exhibitors and 45000 visitors worldwide, NSTI nanotech is where I discover with the world most dynamic and advanced start ups and it is the place a perfect place for networking with the US nanotech leaders. Different from Tokyo nanotech event, NSTI nanotech has the largest number of parallel conference tracks covering state of the art R & D updates in Fabrication, Characterization & Tools, Advanced Materials, Electronics & Microsystems, Medical & Biotech, Energy & Environment, Business & Strategy, Special symposia and Workshops.

The TechConnect is very unique in this event and it is very much lacking in most of the Asian nanotech events.

I mustn't end this article without thanking Nanotech Now and NSTI giving me the opportunity to join the event and particularly thank Todd Keefe (in charge of media liaison) for his kind assistance to connect me to various busy people for interviews including the interview of CEO of RusNano Dr Anatoly Chubais.



Exhibition floor of NSTI Nanotech 2009



