

Körber-Preis für die Europäische Wissenschaft

Search Committee Physical Sciences

Prof. Dr. Alexander Wokaun

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Photo: private

Since 1994, Alexander Wokaun is heading the General Energy Research Department of the Paul Scherrer Institut, and teaches in the Chemistry and Applied Biosciences Department of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Development of a sustainable energy system is at the focus of the research program, which comprises technologies for the use of renewable energies, energy storage, clean and efficient energy converters, and assessment of the environmental consequences of energy use.

Prof. Wokaun was born in 1952. He studied in the Department of Chemistry at ETH Zurich and received his doctorate under Richard R. Ernst on the subject of nuclear magnetic resonance. During his subsequent research fellowship at IBM Research Laboratories in San Jose (CA) and at the Bell Laboratories in Holmdel (NJ), he worked with laser spectroscopic methods for three years. In 1982, he returned to the ETH Zurich and completed his habilitation thesis on energy conversion processes at interfaces. In 1986 he was appointed to the Chair of Physical Chemistry at the University of Bayreuth and returned again to the ETH Zurich in 1994. Since 2006, Alexander Wokaun is chairing the Steering Committee of the Competence Center Energy and Mobility (CCEM) which facilitates large-scale collaborative projects of ETH domain institutions. In July 2007, he was appointed Vice Director of the Paul Scherrer Institute for the area of Energy Research.