# Chemistry 1 Sales 2 May 2004 www.chemind.org www.chemind.org

Issue 9 3 May 2004

Renewable energy rising up to the challenge



# www.chemind.org

## **Editor Simon Robinson**

E-mail: editor@soci.org
News Marina Murphy, Richard Butler,

E-mail: news@soci.org
Features Robert Winder

E-mail: features@soci.org Art Editor Julia Cheftel

Correspondents Lubomír Sedlák, Czech Republic; Marin Todd, EC/Benelux; Stuart Todd, France

Editorial Co-ordinator Princess Johnson E-mail: enquiries@soci.org Advertising Momenul Hogue, Vania Lobo

Advertising Momenul Hoque, Vania Lobo
E-mail: advertising@soci.org

# **Editorial & Advertising Offices**

14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS Tel: +44 (0)20 7598 1500 Fax: +44 (0)20 7235 9410 Advertising by Roscoe Services Limited

# **International Advisory Board**

Sir James Black Kings College Hospital Medical School, London Umberto Colombo ENEA, Rome Roald Hoffmann Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Ralph Landau Listowel, NY Lord Lewis University of Cambridge, UK Yasunori Nishijima Kyoto University, Japan Gerhard Wegner Max-Planck-Institut für Polymerforschung, Mainz, Germany

### Subscriptions Orders & Enquiries

Subscription enquiries: subscriptions@soci.org. USA, Canada & Mexico subscription rate: US\$560. Orders with payment to the Society of Chemical Industry, Extenza—Turpin, Stratton Business Park, Pegasus Drive, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire SG18 8QB, UK.

T: +44 (0)1767 604 800; F: +44 (0)1767 601 640. All copies sent air speed to the USA. USA POSTMASTER: send address changes to Chemistry & Industry, 200 Meacham Avenue, Elmont, NY 11003. Periodical postage paid at Jamaica, NY 11431. Canadian GST Reg. No. R197571347

Japan subscription rate: £382. Orders with payment to USACO, 17-12, Higashi-Azabu, 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0044. Rest of world subscription rates: EU and ROW £410. Orders with payment to Society of Chemical Industry, Extenza—Turpin (see above). Delivery outside UK by air speed.

### SCI Members' Enquiries

Queries and address changes to SCI Member Services, 14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS. T: +44 (0)20 7598 1500; F: +44 (0)20 7823 1698; E-mail: members@soci.org;

# Web address: www.soci.org Chemistry & Industry

© Society of Chemical Industry 2004. ISSN 0009-3068. C&I is published twice a month by the Society of Chemical Industry, 14/15 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS. Printed by Williams Press, Unit 21, Clivemont Road, Cordwallis Estate, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7BX, UK. Chemistry & Industry is editorially independent of, but published by, SCI



# Chemistry & Industry

Issue 9

Pages 1-32

3 May 2004

# Regulars

News
Patents
Diary
Comment
Reviews
Highlights
People

Aventis: Sanofi bid accepted, Novartis shunned
Aerial advance, crystal box and solar boost
The latest shows, exhibitions and meetings
Passion leads to rich rewards
James Clerk Maxwell, surfactants and biosensors
Applied chemistry
Stephen Allen elected to Solexa board
30

# Gastronomy

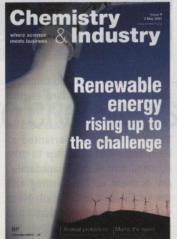
Cath O'Driscoll lifts the lid on a restaurant in Berkshire and discovers the science behind its success



# **Materials**

We may take glass for granted, but the latest developments could lead to more efficient lasers and clearer X-rays. Harvey Black reports





Cover illustration: Corbis



# **Asymmetric synthesis**

Peter Spargo examines whether asymmetric synthesis via crystallisation is a low-tech or high-tech opportunity