

Six nanotechnology news stories to watch in 2012: Nanofilm CEO forecasts risks and opportunities

December 26, 2011 – Valley View, Ohio – In his regular [IndustryWeek nanotechnology column](#), [Nanofilm](#) founder Scott Rickert identifies the six stories that will shape nanotechnology in 2012 and the impact they'll have on the U.S. economy.

Rickert, the veteran nanotechnology researcher, names three intertwined topics as the top concerns for 2012: globalization, commercialization and partnership. "It's clear that we can't talk about one without the others – the SWOT analysis brings them all to the table," he writes in his [Taking the NanoPulse](#) column. "Is globalization a threat to America's technology leadership? An opportunity for our innovators? A call for more government funding? A plea for less interference? All that and more."

Rickert has particular concern over government support of nanotechnology commercialization. "The 2012 Obama administration budget, with its \$2.1 billion for nanotechnology, still languishes in Congress, and the 2013 version is likely to face the same fate," he says.

Rickert also explores the changing attitudes toward nanotechnology's environmental health and safety impact as topic number four and number five in his column. He welcomes the rational approach of federal regulators as one trend. The other he cites is the potential of nanotechnology to make oil and natural gas more ecologically sound.

The final news story to watch is the one Rickert suggests is most troubling: nano-terrorism. He recaps the August 2011 reports of nanotechnology professors at a Mexico university receiving a mail-bomb, then notes that a similar occurrence in December suggests the movement is still active.

The full article, titled [Six to Watch in '12](#), can be read at [IndustryWeek.com](#).

[Scott Rickert](#) is the co-founder and CEO of Nanofilm. He has been the nanotechnology columnist for [IndustryWeek.com](#) since 2006. He is a founding board member of the Nanobusiness Commercialization Association and the Nano-Network and frequently writes and speaks on nanotechnology research and commercialization.

[Nanofilm](#) (www.nanofilmtechnology.com) is a leader in nanofilm technology and self-assembling thin films for a variety of substrates and surfaces. With an in-house team of nanotechnology specialists, the company continues to leverage its rich technological strengths and core competences to capture growth opportunities in nanotechnology applications worldwide. Nanofilm is a privately held company with headquarters in Valley View, Ohio, near Cleveland.

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