

Fundación Cepsa University of Cádiz Chair rings changes

- **David Sales has taken over from Miguel Ángel Mancha**
- **Dual university-company training, research on the industry and the environment**

The Fundación Cepsa Chair at Cádiz University has a new director. Until the steering committee holds a formal selection process, Dr David Sales will temporarily take up the challenge of developing the chair during this new stage within the recently established Fundación Cepsa. His objectives include strengthening collaborative teaching in the field of engineering, taking research projects on the industry and the environment forward, and conducting campaigns to market and provide information on the chair.

David Sales is a chemical engineer from Cádiz University; part of his work in engineering was spent at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. After a brief stint of a year at Repsol's polyols plant in Puertollano, he decided to start a doctorate and obtained a European PhD with distinction in 2008.

During that time, Sales did stints at a number of well-respected international research centers such as Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Tennessee, USA), the University of Cambridge (UK) and Technische Universiteit (Antwerp, Belgium), for a total of 13 months. Since 2008, he has been a member of the teaching staff in the Department of Material Science and Metallurgy Engineering and Inorganic Chemistry at Cádiz University, where he has taught on engineering courses and conducted research and knowledge transfer work in the Materials and Nanotechnology for Innovation research group. The results of his research have been published in a total of 35 scientific articles in leading journals and have been presented at 70 international congresses. David Sales owns two patents for inventions.

He replaces Doctor Miguel Ángel Marcha who headed up and developed the pioneering Cepsa Chair at Cádiz University since it was created 11 years ago. During his tenure, the Cepsa Chair innovation awards were established, hundreds of students and teaching staff took part in the intern program at Cepsa, and the expert-level oil refining and industrial maintenance courses were continuously enhanced.

The future work of the Fundación Cepsa Chair will be geared to pushing forward with research that responds to the real needs of the corporate world,

to strengthening collaborative teaching and increasing knowledge, and to renewing the current Fundación Cepsa Chair programs at Cádiz University.

The Cepsa Chairs in Andalusia

Cepsa continues to work alongside academia. The Fundación Cepsa-managed chairs at the universities of Huelva, Seville and Cádiz are growing thanks to the contributions and dedication of professionals from all these organizations to improve training, innovation and research.

The Cepsa Chairs in Andalusia have allowed thousands of students to gain first-hand experience of a real working environment, while bringing university lecturers closer to the reality of the industry in Andalusia. Exchanges between technicians and lecturers have allowed them to hone their skills and apply their newly gained expertise in their daily work. For all these reasons, today Cepsa is a great ally of universities in Andalusia.

Fundación Cepsa is a general interest, non-profit entity with the goal of undertaking initiatives to serve the needs and priorities of the local communities where its founder, COMPAÑÍA ESPAÑOLA DE PETRÓLEOS S.A.U. (Cepsa), conducts its activities. The areas of action for Fundación Cepsa are social, cultural, environmental, scientific-educational, and support for amateur sports.

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