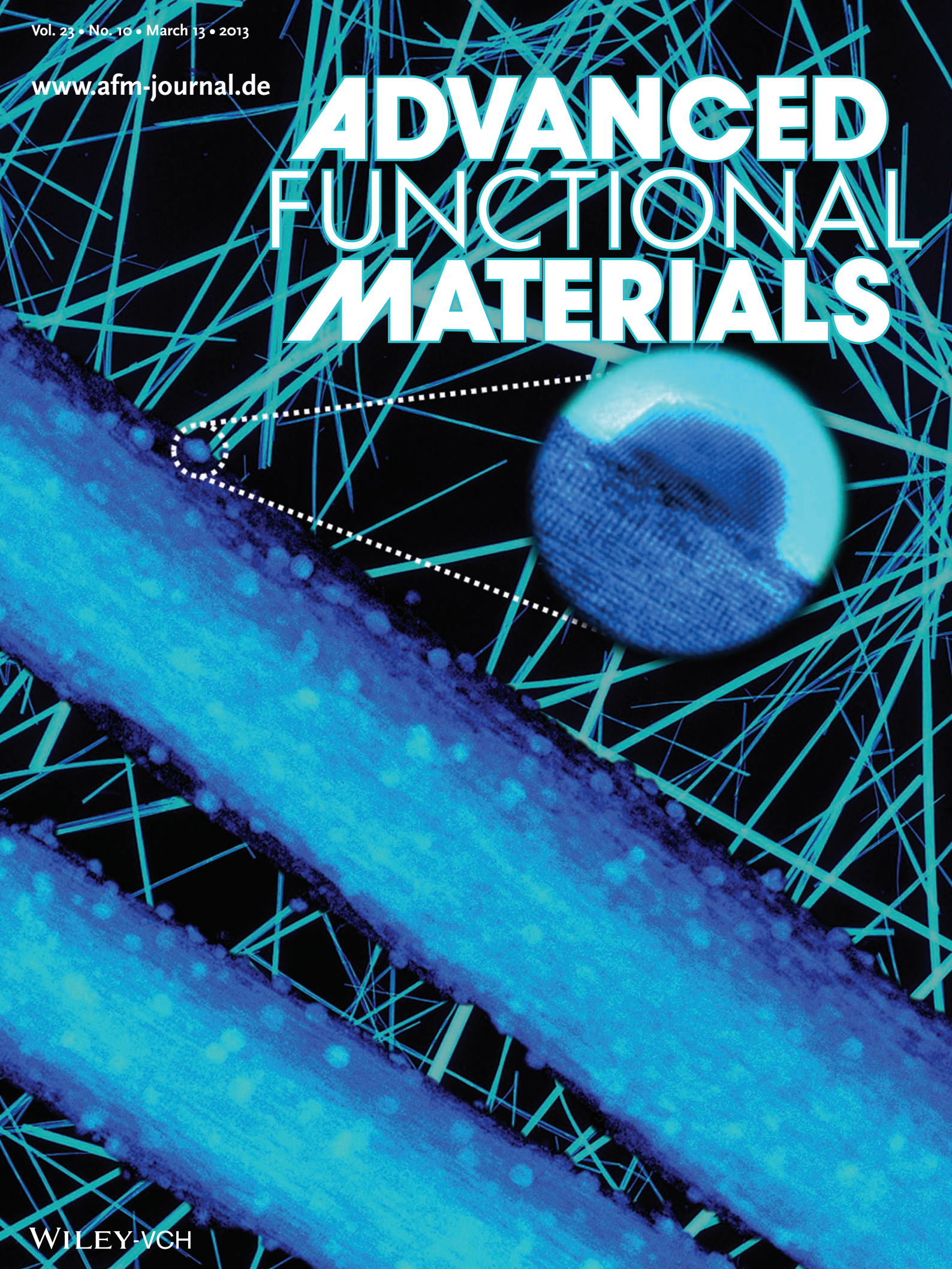


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ADVANCED FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS

The background of the cover is a high-resolution scanning electron micrograph (SEM) of a material surface. The surface is covered with a dense network of fine, needle-like or fibrous structures that radiate from various points. A prominent, diagonal, textured band runs across the lower half of the image. A white dotted line forms a circle around a specific point on this band, and a larger, semi-transparent circular inset on the right side of the cover provides a magnified view of the surface texture within that area, showing a highly ordered, grid-like pattern.

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