



SCHWEIGHOFER
PRIZE 2013

2013 Schweighofer Prize Awarded in Vienna –

- 600 guests from 35 countries
- 300,000 Euros for innovative wood-related ideas
- International wood researchers and forest-based industry met in Vienna

Vienna, 5 June 2013. For the sixth time, on 4 June 2013, the Schweighofer Prize was awarded at Vienna's City Hall. This European innovation award for the European forest-based industry is conferred every two years and worth a combined total of 300,000 Euros.

The Prize's focus is on innovative ideas, technologies, products and services on all levels of the value-added chain involving the versatile material wood. Approximately 600 guests from 35 countries were present at Vienna's City Hall for the award ceremony, in which Austrian Federal Ministers DI Niki Berlakovich (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management) and Rudolf Hundstorfer (Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection), as well as Dr. Andreas Mailath-Pokorny (Viennese municipal councillor for culture) likewise took part.

The Prize-winners: From Entrepreneurs to City Networks

This year's prize-winners:

The winner of the Main Prize for 2013 is Dott.Ing. Federico Giudiceandrea from Bressanone/Brixen, Italy. He was awarded for his outstanding lifetime work. For over 30 years, Giudiceandrea has been a driving force behind groundbreaking new developments in electronic measurement and control systems for the wood processing industry. Giudiceandrea's award is worth € 100,000, and his ideas are being implemented by his company MICROTEC.

www.microtec.eu.

The innovation prizes equally share the prize money of € 200,000.

- **Kielsteg Bauelement** – a lightweight construction element with an excellent load-bearing capacity in relation to its own weight. Stefan Krestel, Ulrich Spiegel and Gernot Kulmer (Kielsteg GmbH), Austria
www.kielsteg.at
- **Glued-in metal plates** – a totally new wood-steel-composite system with extremely high performance. RheinMain University of Applied Sciences, Germany; project led by Leander Bathon
www.hs-rm.de/fab
- **LifeCycle Tower – LCT ONE** – Austria's first eight-story office building realized as a hybrid timber construction. Hermann Kaufmann and Hubert Rhomberg, Austria
www.hermann-kaufmann.at ; www.creebyrhomberg.com
- **Nordic Wooden Cities** – a Nordic cooperation promoting modern urban development with wooden structures. Hans Andrén (Sweden) and Eva Britt Sager (Norway)
www.nordicwoodencities.com

Just this quick overview makes it clear that wood possesses an enormous range of potential as a building material, and that it is sustainable and thus represents an efficient use of resources. Approaches such as these have distinguished the Schweighofer Prize since its inception in 2003.

The prize was initiated by the Schweighofer family, who own one of Europe's leading wood-processing industrial companies. Their personal fascination with wood is the driving force behind the considerable effort that goes into this prize.

The Material of Wood as a Catalyst of Innovation

The Schweighofer Prize makes visible the contributions of wood-related research to innovations in Europe's forest-based industry. Submitted projects range from visionary ideas to products that have already seen successful introduction to the market. The Schweighofer Prize reinforces awareness of this material's nearly infinite range of possible uses.

"Future Forest" on 4 June: A Visionary Forest-related Experience

A special element above and beyond the awards ceremony was the interactive installation "Future Forest" at Vienna's City Hall on the evening of 4 June: it consisted of a forest labyrinth with numerous surprising elements and effects that allowed the life cycle of wood and its use to be experienced by all the senses. This staging of the forest as a complex phenomenon encompassing nature, the climate, business and technology ranged from a pellet waterfall to a wooden escalator. "Future Forest", conceived and executed by a leading virtual artist, offered an overwhelming and emphatically sensuous introduction to the forest.

The Schweighofer Prize is donated by the Austrian Schweighofer family, who has been engaged in the European woodworking industry for generations. Since 2003 the award is presented every second year, and is endowed with a total prize money of € 300,000. The Schweighofer Prize awards innovative ideas, technologies, products and services in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the European Forest Based Sector.

All natural persons or groups of individuals as well as organisations are eligible to participate. The applicants have to fulfil all conditions in form and content. The most important requirement is the obvious benefit for the European Forest Based Sector.

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