

NEWS RELEASE

Covestro's CEO Steilemann awarded the Georg Menges Prize

The Georg Menges Prize, which is awarded for outstanding commitment in the interplay between research and industry, has been won in 2020 by Dr. Markus Steilemann, CEO of Covestro

Aachen, September 2020 - Dr. Markus Steilemann, CEO of Covestro, has been awarded the Georg Menges Prize 2020. With this award, which is presented every two years, the Plastics and Rubber section of Germany's Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (VDMA), together with PlasticsEurope Deutschland e. V. and the Sponsors' Association of the Institute for Plastics Processing (IKV) in Industry and Craft at RWTH Aachen University, acknowledge the achievement of individual persons or groups who have made a particularly valuable contribution to the transfer of research results to industrial practice in the field of plastics technology.

This year's prize winner, Dr. Markus Steilemann, has been a member of the Board of Management of Covestro since 2015 and was responsible for innovation. From 2016, he also headed the Polyurethanes segment. In 2017, he took over responsibility for innovation, marketing and sales as Chief Commercial Officer (CCO). On June 1, 2018, he succeeded Patrick Thomas as Covestro's Chief Executive Officer.

Professor Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann, head of IKV and Managing Director of the IKV Sponsors' Association, actually awarded the prize to Dr. Markus Steilemann on 27 August. This has now been made public at the all-digital Colloquium Plastics Technology. In his laudatory speech, Professor Hopmann emphasised among other things the future-looking commitment shown by Dr. Steilemann und Covestro for the sustainability of plastic. He said: "In Dr. Markus Steilemann and Covestro AG, research can call on a strong partner that is interested in the fundamental principles, thinks out of the box, is perseverant and prepared to accept setbacks, and also encourages the transfer of research into processes and products."

"For me as a former student of RWTH Aachen University, the Georg Menges Prize is a particular honour," said Markus Steilemann in his thank-you speech. "The award strengthens us in our intention to drive further forward the fertile interplay of application-oriented research and science-based industry. And it shows that plastic is the material of choice for a sustainable future."

The Georg Menges Prize was first awarded in March 1999 in the Aachen city hall to mark the 75th birthday of Georg Menges, who was head of the Institute for Plastics Processing (IKV) for many years. The donors of the prize continued to pursue Georg Menges' central idea that research and industry necessarily belong together and that a constant exchange of information between science and industry is essential to achieve innovation. The continuous transfer of knowledge by the prize winners helps to shape the future of the plastics industry in a particular way, and is acknowledged by the award of the Georg Menges Prize.

The prize – a replica of a monocular Leitz microscope made by hand in Wetzlar in 1899 – is traditionally presented during the course of the International Colloquium Plastics Technology, which is staged every two years by IKV. This year, the big event for international plastics experts was held from 8 – 11 September as an all-digital conference because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The presentation was therefore shown as a video clip during the event.



Winners of the Georg Menges Prize since 1999:

- Dr. Kurt Weirauch (1999)
- Dr.-Ing. Volker Hülck (2000)
- Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Rolf Lidl (2002)
- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Helmut Potente (2004)
- Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h. c. Gottfried W. Ehrenstein (2006)
- Dr.-Ing. Erwin Bürkle (2008)
- Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. h.c. Hartwig Höcker (2010)
- Dipl.-Ing. Herbert Kraibühler (2012)
- Dipl.-Ing. Günter Hofmann (2014)
- Dipl.-Ing. Hartwig Meier (2016)
- INTRA e.V. (2018)
- Dr. Markus Steilemann (2020)

www.ikv-aachen.de/en

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The Georg Menges Prize

The Georg Menges Prize honours achievements in the long-term cooperation between science and industry in the field of plastics processing. The award is presented to prominent personalities or groups who have rendered outstanding service in the practical application in industry and science of knowledge gained from research and development, and encouraging dialogue and cooperation between industry and research institutions.

About IKV

IKV - the Institute for Plastics Processing at RWTH Aachen University, is Europe-wide the leading research and education institute engaged in the field of plastics processing enjoying outstanding reputation. More than 300 staff are employed in finding solutions to problems connected with processing, materials technology and part design in the plastics and rubber industries. IKV's close contacts with industry and science, together with its outstanding facilities, enable cutting-edge research in plastics technology and ensure that students benefit from a comprehensive, practically oriented course of study. Plastics engineering graduates from IKV are thus sought-after experts in industry. In organisational terms, IKV is divided up into the four specialist departments of Injection Moulding, Extrusion and Rubber Technology, Part Design and Materials Technology, and Composites and Polyurethane Technology. The institute also takes in the Centre for Analysis and Testing of Plastics, and the Training and Further Education department. IKV is run by an Association of Sponsors, which currently has a membership of about 300 plastics companies from all over the world. Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann is Head of the Institute and Managing Director of the Association of Sponsors. He also holds the Chair of Plastics Processing at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at RWTH Aachen University.



Professor Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann, head of IKV and Managing Director of IKV's Association of Sponsors (left), presents the Georg-Menges Prize 2020 to the prize winner, Dr. Markus Steilemann, CEO of Covestro (right). | Photo: IKV

Photos in high resolution to find on our website together with the press release at www.ikv-aachen.de/en/news