

## NEWS RELEASE

### **IKV scientist receives the Reifenhäuser Sponsorship Award**

Reifenhäuser Sponsorship Award goes to IKV scientist Melanie Kostka, M.Sc. for her master's thesis in the field of sustainable plastics

Aachen, September 2020 - With the presentation of the Reifenhäuser Sponsorship Award, on 25 August, the Reifenhäuser company honoured the outstanding research work done by Melanie Kostka, M.Sc., who is employed as a scientific assistant at the Institute for Plastics Processing (IKV) in Industry and Craft at RWTH Aachen University.

In her master's thesis, which she wrote when a student at IKV, the prize winner tackled the subject of foamed cellulose-based plastics obtained from renewable plant-based raw materials. The focus of the thesis was on research into the still largely unknown properties of these plastics. One of the key points was the analysis of the flame-retardant properties, knowledge of which is essential for their use in building insulation. In the opinion of the jury, Melanie Kostka's thesis stood out because of its outstanding scientific quality and the practical benefits of the findings.

Reifenhäuser launched its sponsorship award for students, which is worth 3,000 euros, for the first time this year to reward outstanding work in the field of plastics technology. It aims to induce talented students to tackle present-day challenges of the world of plastics at a high level. Bernd Reifenhäuser, CEO of the Reifenhäuser Group, explains: "With this award, we want to motivate young people with a passion for plastics technology to continue striving for exceptional achievements. Particularly for the sustainable use of plastic in practice, there is a need for creative research approaches in which the students have the courage to think out of the box. With her work, Melanie Kostka has done precisely this in an outstanding fashion."

Bernd Reifenhäuser and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Hopmann, head of IKV, jointly awarded the prize on 25 August at the headquarters of the Reifenhäuser Group in Troisdorf. The presentation was shown as a video clip at the International Colloquium Plastics Technology. This year, the event is being staged from 8-11 September as a purely digital conference because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**[www.ikv-aachen.de/en](http://www.ikv-aachen.de/en)**

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### 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 Christian Hopmann, head of IKV, prize winner Melanie Kostka and Bernd Reifenhäuser, CEO of Reifenhäuser Group, at the presentation of the award in Troisdorf. | Photo: IKV

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