Innovation Award
Foamed Plastics
and Polyurethane
FSK 2019
Fachverband Schaumkunststoffe und Polyurethane e.V.

FSK Innovation Award Foamed Plastics and Polyurethane 2019

Preamble

The FSK Innovation Award is presented once a year to honour innovative ideas in the categories **Design and Construction** as well as **Technology and/or Process Engineering and Chemical Engineering.** For the first time in 2019, Junior professionals, companies and professionals will have the opportunity to submit projects for the FSK Innovation Award in the two FSK topics **„Foamed Plastics" and „Polyurethane"**.

Entry categories

Entries are accepted for following categories:

- **Category I – Design and Construction**
- **Category II – Technology (Process Engineering and Chemical Engineering)**

To ensure proper evaluation and merit for outstanding and exemplary entries different criteria (see Criteria and Points Catalogue) are applied for each of the categories.

Candidates

The FSK Innovation Award addresses following target groups for entries in two different categories:

Category I
Design and Construction

Junior professionals

- Trainees from the above named fields
- Students from the above named fields
- Graduates, researchers from the above named fields (Technical colleges and universities for design, construction or similar)
- Young employees from engineering offices (maximum 6 months after completion of training)
- Young employees from design studios (maximum 6 months after completion of training)
- Other junior professionals with some kind of relation to the material (maximum 6 months after completion of training)

Specialists, professionals, companies

- Design studios, designers
- Engineering offices, engineers
- Other companies

Category II
Technology (Process Engineering and Chemical Engineering)

Junior professionals

- Trainees from the above named fields
- Students from the above named fields
- Graduates, doctoral students, researchers from the above named field (Technical colleges and universities with a focus on production engineering, process engineering, materials science or similar)
- Young engineers from technical companies (maximum 6 months after completion of training)
- Other junior professionals with some kind of relation to the material (maximum 6 months after completion of training)

Specialists, professionals, companies

- Processing companies, employees
- Chemical-technical companies, employees
- Other companies

Participation is open to both individuals and groups. Entries from junior professionals and senior professionals, respectively companies, are evaluated and distinguished separately to ensure proper evaluation and merit in relation to knowledge and experience.

Objective

The objective of the FSK Innovation Award Foamed Plastics and Polyurethane 2019 is to recognise and honour outstanding, exemplary and in particular innovative ideas, products and processes, selected as award-worthy by a jury of experts appointed by the FSK.

An important precondition for a successful entry and the classification of an idea, product or process as innovative is **newness**. Qualifying as 'new' can mean new idea, new product or process, and/or renewals, i.e. a further development and/or improvement of already existing products or processes.

To be ranked innovative the idea should be **marketable** and **competitive**. The idea, product or process should have the potential to penetrate an existing market or create a new market and establish itself among the competition.

The FSK Innovation Award also attaches great importance to a **material-oriented implementation** of ideas, products or processes. The material should allow optimum fulfilment of product properties and demonstrate advantages in production, processing or application as compared to other materials. When submitting innovative processes and process ideas, these should be adapted to the specific properties of the material and, compared with conventional methods, provide advantages in production, processing, etc. It is therefore not only essential to have knowledge of properties and possible applications when submitting an entry, but also to make these clearly recognisable.

Following additional category-specific criteria are considered:

In category I – Design and Construction – ideas and products should consider the **correlation** between **design** and **product character** respectively **functionality**. This means that the chosen design should support the function of a product idea, respectively a product, while calling attention to the character of and visually accentuating the product. The design should be perceived as modern, original and appealing

In category II – Technology (Process Engineering and Chemical Engineering) – **technical feasibility** and **implementation** of an idea, product or process is of great importance. The idea, product or process entered should be technically feasible. Implementation of the idea should be reasonable and in compliance with current state of the art, demonstrating that the candidate has comprehensively dealt with the technical and chemical demands to the product or process. A contribution of the project entered towards rationalization, efficiency improvement or automation as compared to conventional production and processing processes, etc. will be rated as positive.

Application
How do I enter

To take part in the FSK Innovation Award timely submit a project in form of following application documents:

- **Presentation document** (e.g. presentation slides; preferably in PDF format, max. 20 slides) Presentation of the idea, product or process should be by means of a presentation document demonstrating all aspects of the project and all evaluation criteria such as newness, marketability and competitiveness or material appropriate implementation. A presentation can also be supported by **samples, exhibits, models and press releases** or similar. The jury perceives this as positive. An individual presentation may be necessary after consultation.
- A one-page **short summary** of the basic contents of the new idea
- Completed **registration** and **contact forms**

To participate in the innovation award as a junior professional it is not of importance at which stage of the innovation process the entry is. Thus, both developed and tangible ideas for products and processes, as well as products and processes already in product development, product testing or a later stage of the innovation process can be submitted. As a rule an only one-year successful establishment of the entry on the market is permitted.

To participate in the innovation award as a specialist, professional or company, the entry should be beyond the stage of concept definition and project planning. At least one prototype of the entered product should have been produced or the process have been demonstrably tested or practically implemented. For specialists, professionals and companies likewise applies an only one-year successful establishment of the entry on the market is permitted.

Evaluation

After the entry is submitted, the jury, an expert team appointed by the FSK, will evaluate the innovation based on the Criteria and Points Catalogue as listed below.

It is not relevant at which stage of the innovation process the entry is submitted, since only quality and innovative character of an idea, product or process are evaluated and not the current stage of the innovation process. This means that a product that has already been successfully applied in initial tests will not have any advantage or disadvantage in terms of evaluation, when compared with an idea whose possible future application has been extensively worked out and is regarded as promising. If on entering an idea has not yet practically demonstrated its technical feasibility, marketability or other criteria, then these criteria must be proactively and theoretically demonstrated in the application.

Award and prizes

The FSK Innovation Award Foamed Plastics and Polyurethane 2019 honours and recognises innovative and outstanding ideas, products and processes of industry experts. The award is intended to support recipients in establishing their ideas, products and processes in the industry by communicating these ideas as promising and forward thinking.

In the junior professionals group, award winners will also receive an attractive financial bonus for their project. The first, second and third prizes will receive a financial bonus as follows:

- **1. Prize: 3.000,- Euro**
- **2. Prize: 1.500,- Euro**
- **3. Prize: 500,- Euro**

The award and prizes are based solely on the superiority and quality of the entry, according to evaluation by the jury. Entries are always considered separately and not in competition with other applications. The graduation of awards, respectively financial bonus, is intended to reflect the quality of the distinguished project in accordance with the Criteria and Points Catalogue. Consequently, more than one candidate may receive a first, second or third prize.

There will not be any financial prizes presented to the group of specialists, professionals and companies, but participation in this group is still worthwhile as this draws attention to innovative developments and achievements. Award winners and their projects are often mentioned and presented in FSK press releases, making their ideas known to a broad public and a large audience of specialists. Participating can lead to interesting and promising industry contacts.

Other important information

1. Registration deadline is the **30.08.2019**. Application documents must be submitted in full to the FSK by this date.

2. In addition, candidates may request information and/or technical support from the FSK or members of the association, or visit seminars.

3. The legal process is excluded; the decision of the jury is not contestable.

4. The FSK will not reimburse costs for entries submitted and/or related expenses. Exceptions must be explicitly agreed in advance.

Criteria and points catalog

Evaluation scale

☐ 0	☐ 1	☐ 2	☐ 3
does not apply	applies in part	applies for the most part	applies in full

Category I – Design and Construction

Points

Newness of the idea respectively the product

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Is it a new product or further development of an existing product??

This includes the question:

- Does the product generate new applications?

Marketability and competitiveness of the idea respectively the product

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Does the product have the potential to generate demand, create a market or penetrate an existing market?

Further questions are:

- Does the product have the potential to establish itself on the market and to compete with rival products?
- With its given material properties can the product rival with a competitive material or product from a technical point of view??
- From a financial point of view, can the product rival with technically competitive materials or products?

Material oriented implementation of the idea respectively the product

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Does the chosen material enable optimum fulfilment of product properties and product function?

This also includes the question:

- Resulting from the choice of material, are there advantages for the product, production, processing or application as compared to other materials? (Financial aspects or advantages are not considered here, see marketability and competitiveness)

Design, product character and functionality

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Does the chosen design look modern, contemporary, unique and appealing?

Further questions are:

- Does the chosen design reflect the character of the product?
- Does the design convey the character of an innovation?
- Does the chosen design support the function of the product

Total points _____

Category II – Technology (Process and Chemical Engineering)

Points

Newness of the idea, the product or the process

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Is it a new product, new process or further development of an existing product or process?

This includes the question:

- Does the product or process generate new applications?

Marketability and competitiveness of the idea, the product or the process

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Does the product or process have the potential to generate demand, create a market or penetrate an existing market?

Further questions are:

- Does the product or process have the potential to establish itself on the market and to compete with rival products or processes?
- From a technical point of view, can the product or process survive against the competition?
- From a financial point of view, can the product or process rival with technically competitive materials or processes?

Material oriented implementation of the idea, product or process

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Does the chosen material enable optimum fulfilment of product properties and product function?

Or:

- Is the process submitted optimally adapted to the specific properties of the material?

Further questions are:

- Resulting from the choice of material, are there advantages for the product, production, processing or application as compared to other materials? (Financial aspects or advantages are not considered here, see marketability and competitiveness)

Technical feasibility and implementation of the idea, product or process

☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

- Is the idea, product or process easy to realise?

Further questions are:

- Is the implementation meaningful?
- Has the candidate dealt with the technical respectively chemical demands to the product or process?
- Does the idea, product or process contribute to an advancement of technology (e.g., automation, efficiency improvement, etc.)?

Total points _____

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APPLICATION FOR

FSK Innovation Award Foamed Plastics and Polyurethanes 2019

Name/Contact partner: _____

University/Company: _____

Function: _____

Street: _____

Postal code/City: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Tutor: _____

Category:

☐ **Jun. professional – Design/Construction**
☐ **Jun. professional – Technology**
☐ **Specialist, professional, company – Design/Construction**
☐ **Specialist, professional, company – Technology**

Theme of entry:

_____

_____

_____

Presentation attached as

☐ Presentation on data carrier
☐ Sample
☐ Other _____

_____

_____

_____

By registering and participating in the FSK innovation award, you accept the general terms and conditions of the FSK.

_____ _____

Date/City Signature