

Press release

Luzern, 10th June 2021

IHZ Innovation Award Ceremony 2020: SIGRIST-PHOTOMETER AG as the big winner

SIGRIST-PHOTOMETER AG was honoured with the IHZ Innovation Award 2020 on 9th June 2021 in Ennetbürgen. SIGRIST-PHOTOMETER AG was awarded for its product "ScrubberGuard", an optical measuring device for monitoring scrubber wash water on ocean-going vessels. The 2020 Award of Acknowledgement goes to Confiseur Bachmann AG. After the announcement of the award winners in September 2020, the ceremony had to be postponed to 2021 because of the corona pandemic.

Jury president and member of the Council of States for Nidwalden Hans Wicki welcomed the approximately 50 guests who followed the award ceremony live in the Ennetbürgen community hall late on Wednesday afternoon. The one-hour event focused on SIGRIST-PHOTOMETER AG, whose "ScrubberGuard" won the 34th IHZ Innovation Award. Representing the Innovation Award sponsoring partner, Claudia Gasser, regional director for Central Switzerland UBS Switzerland AG, presented the prize to the visibly proud Markus Stolz, CEO of SIGRIST-PHOTOMETER AG. "This award is for our whole team," said Stolz in his acceptance speech. Among the first to congratulate him was IHZ director Adrian Derungs. "The CHF 10,000 award in particular makes it possible for the winning company to present their achievements and innovations in the economic region of Central Switzerland and beyond," said Adrian Derungs.

A globally unique innovation from Ennetbürgen

With their ScrubberGuard, SIGRIST-PHOTOMETER AG have combined tried and tested individual components to create an innovative complete system that is enhanced with unique maritime refinements. This system monitors the scrubber wash water on ocean-going vessels for traces of oil, turbidity, pH value and temperature before it is being discharged into the sea. This ensures compliance with the limits of the Maritime Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) - an important contribution to the protection of the oceans. The development of the ScrubberGuard was started in 2012 and further developed as part of a bachelor thesis at the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU). The device is characterised by a non-contact free-fall measurement, which ensures that there is no soiling of the optics. Furthermore, a sophisticated system was developed to eliminate air bubbles, which ensures constantly reliable measurement values. To ensure maximum operational reliability, the system is also automatically recalibrated. All these features are unparalleled anywhere in the world. "The development of a complete system taking into account the manifold requirements for ships on all the world's oceans is impressive and has convinced the jury," says jury president Hans Wicki.

Award of Acknowledgement for 3D Cake Configurator

Matthias Bachmann, member of the Executive Board and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Confiseur Bachmann AG, received the 2020 Award of Acknowledgement from Daniel Salzmänn, CEO of Luzerner Kantonalbank. He represented the Luzerner Kantonalbank as a sponsoring partner. The confectionery company was awarded for its virtual 3D cake configurator. Customers can design their own cakes and order them online at any time. With this technically complex solution, the company has created a novelty in this business and promotes digitalisation.

Every year, the IHZ honours exceptional achievements by companies in Central Switzerland with the Innovation Award. It acknowledges the development and implementation of innovative, technology-oriented or knowledge-based products, processes and services.

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About the IHZ:

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Central Switzerland IHZ is one of a total of 18 chambers of commerce and industry in Switzerland. The IHZ is the centre of competence for economic policy and export in Central Switzerland. Independent of party politics, it represents over 700 companies in the cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden and Nidwalden as an important regional network. In addition to economic policy, exports and its networking activities, the IHZ is also involved in education. As the organiser of the Business Weeks at schools in Central Switzerland, as co-owner of the Swiss School for International Business and with individualised export seminars, the IHZ actively contributes to the transfer of knowledge.