

PRESS RELEASE

DEUTZ honors Professor Wolfgang Reitzle with innovation award

- The Nicolaus August Otto Award recognizes outstanding lifetime achievements in the fields of alternative drive systems, transportation, energy efficiency, innovative technology, and research for the future
- This year's award goes to pioneer and business leader Professor Wolfgang Reitzle for his work on hydrogen-powered drive systems for sustainable, low-emission transport

Cologne, November 4, 2020 – Today, engine manufacturer DEUTZ AG honored Professor Wolfgang Reitzle with the Nicolaus August Otto Award. The award is intended to recognize visionaries and promote innovative ideas in the fields of alternative drives, transport, energy efficiency, cutting-edge technology, and future-focused research. It is named for the man who co-invented the four-stroke engine and founded the company that is now DEUTZ AG.

Professor Andreas Pinkwart, Minister for Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization, and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia reprised his role as patron of the event and gave the commendation speech in honor of this year's winner. Professor Reitzle has been working in the field of hydrogen drive systems and fuel cell technology for many years and is a trailblazer for sustainable, low-emission transport.

Professor Reitzle studied engineering and economics at the Technical University of Munich. He began working as a production specialist for BMW, rising to become Head of Research and then Chief Development Officer. From there, he first moved to Ford and later to the industrial gas and technology firm Linde. Today, he chairs the Board of Directors of Linde plc and, amongst others, the Supervisory Board of Continental AG.

Dr. Frank Hiller, CEO of DEUTZ AG: “Professor Reitzle is a worthy recipient of the Nicolaus August Otto Award. He firmly believes that hydrogen drive systems are a realistic alternative to today's internal combustion engines and battery-powered motors and that they can pave the way for zero-emission transport. He has pursued his vision with great determination and focus in recent years in order to facilitate the breakthrough of hydrogen drive technology.”

“I am very delighted to have received this award. For many years, I have been particularly concerned with meeting the social challenges of a world in transition with innovative mobility concepts. The award provides further momentum in this respect: Hydrogen drive technology is an important part of the mobility mix to achieve the climate goals for 2030,” says Professor Reitzle.

For DEUTZ, hydrogen internal combustion engines are an attractive alternative to fuel cell technology, which is currently still very costly. They also offer an additional way of getting closer to climate neutrality, including the off-highway segment. Hydrogen internal combustion drives can be realized relatively swiftly because trusted suppliers and production capacities for combustion engines are on hand in Germany. Further advantages of this technology are its resilience and broad scope of application. Initially, DEUTZ is considering this technology as an interesting alternative for use in stationary equipment and generators.

“The contribution that hydrogen internal combustion engines can make to achieving climate neutrality is a very valid reason to conduct further research in this area. But in order to do so, we need a clear regulatory framework that provides a reliable basis for planning. We also urgently need a roadmap that sets out which drive technologies will be supported in the medium and long term,” says Dr. Frank Hiller.

This year's award ceremony was held as a virtual event due to restrictions in place to contain the spread of coronavirus. The Nicolaus August Otto Award is presented annually and revives the Nicolaus August Otto Prize for Innovation, which was presented by the City of Cologne until 2011. It is endowed with prize money of €30,000.

The engine company.



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About DEUTZ AG

DEUTZ AG, a publicly traded company headquartered in Cologne, Germany, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of innovative drive systems. Its core competencies are the development, production, distribution, and servicing of diesel, gas, and electric drive systems for professional applications. It offers a broad range of engines delivering up to 620 kW that are used in construction equipment, agricultural machinery, material handling equipment, stationary equipment, commercial vehicles, rail vehicles, and other applications. DEUTZ has around 4,900 employees worldwide and over 800 sales and service partners in more than 130 countries. It generated revenue of €1,840.0 million in 2019.

Further information is available at www.deutz.com.