

PRESS RELEASE

Recognition for innovative battery recycling: DEUTZ bestows Nicolaus August Otto Award for the seventh time

- Innovation award recognizes pioneering spirit, entrepreneurship, and future-oriented research
- Award ceremony on July 1 as part of the chiotec conference in Aachen
- CEO Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte presents the award; Julia Klöckner, President of the German Bundestag, congratulates award-winner Dr. Lilian Schwich

Cologne/Aachen, July 2, 2025 – Last night, DEUTZ presented Dr. Lilian Schwich with the Nicolaus August Otto Award. The seventh edition of this renowned prize, awarded by the Cologne-based drive specialist, particularly recognized Schwich's work as founder and co-CEO of cylib, a pioneer in battery recycling. Scale-up cylib, which was created in 2022 as a spinoff from RWTH Aachen University, has developed a technology that enables all components of lithium-ion batteries to be recycled efficiently and sustainably. The award ceremony took place during the chiotec conference (formerly the #neuland conference) in Aachen, which was opened by Julia Klöckner, President of the German Bundestag.

"In less than two years, Dr. Lilian Schwich and cylib have managed to secure a leading position in the European battery recycling market and thus lay the foundation for a genuine circular economy," emphasized DEUTZ CEO Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte in his laudation. "In doing so, Dr. Lilian Schwich is not only a role model for many people in this country. Above all, she demonstrates the strength of Germany as a business location. A brilliant academic from a leading university, groundbreaking technology, and the courage and foresight to bring it all to market readiness within a start-up. These are the ingredients that will keep us successful in the future."

Currently, cylib is building Europe's largest end-to-end recycling facility for lithium-ion batteries at CHEMPARK Dormagen, with a planned capacity of 30,000 tonnes of end-of-life batteries a year. The facility, which is scheduled to go live in 2027, will serve customers in the automotive, battery, and chemical industries. The innovative, water-based OLiC process, which was successfully piloted in Aachen, provides a recycling efficiency of over 90 percent and reduces

the carbon footprint by up to 80 percent compared with the extraction of raw materials. cylib is thus setting a new benchmark for sustainable resource security and the European circular economy.

Named for the inventor of the four-stroke engine and founder of what later became DEUTZ AG, the Nicolaus August Otto award annually sets out to recognize the visionaries of today and is endowed with prize money of €30,000 to promote innovation and pioneering spirit. Previous winners of the Nicolaus August Otto Award include Professor Wolfgang Reitzle, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Continental AG and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Linde plc, Professor Günther Schuh, Chair of Production Engineering at RWTH Aachen University, Professor Denise Fischer-Kreer of the Institute for Entrepreneurship at the University of Bonn's Faculty of Agriculture, and other innovators domestically and internationally. Further information on the Nicolaus August Otto Award can be found at <https://www.deutz.com/en/company/deutz-tradition/nicolaus-august-otto-award/>.



Caption: DEUTZ-CEO Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte (l.) and Julia Klöckner, President of the German Bundestag (r.), congratulate Dr. Lilian Schwich, recipient of this year's Nicolaus August Otto Award.

Credit: DEUTZ AG

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 drive systems for off-highway applications in the power range up to 620 kW. Through its subsidiary, Blue Star Power Systems, Inc., which it acquired in 2024, DEUTZ operates in the field of decentralized energy supply and is increasingly positioning itself as a system provider. The current portfolio ranges from diesel, gas, and hydrogen engines to electric drive solutions. These drive systems are used in various applications, including construction equipment, agricultural machinery, material handling equipment such as forklift trucks and lifting platforms, stationary equipment such as gensets, commercial vehicles, and rail vehicles. DEUTZ also offers a comprehensive range of analog and digital services through around 1,000 sales and service partners in over 120 countries. The Company was founded in 1864, employed more than 5,000 people worldwide as at December 31, 2024, and generated revenue of around €1.8 billion in 2024. Further information is available at www.deutz.com.