

PRESS RELEASE

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FEBELIEC GRANTS FIRST ENERGY AWARD

YOUNG ENGINEERS REWARDED FOR THEIR CREATIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOLVING ENERGY ISSUES WITH FEBELIEC ENERGY AWARD

During its Energy Forum, Febeliec has granted for the first time the Febeliec Energy Award. The significant energy challenges of today have inspired Febeliec to grant this award. Febeliec, the association of industrial energy consumers, started a search for projects, concepts or ideas with the potential to contribute to solving the energy problems of Belgian industry.

Stimulate creativity

By organizing the Febeliec Energy Award, Febeliec wishes to stimulate creativity and innovation in the field of energy.

"In order to take up the energy challenges of today, we need innovative solutions and 'out-of-the-box'-thinking. The challenges we're facing cannot be solved with the existing solutions of today. Therefore, we launched an appeal to send in creative, innovative projects that can contribute to improve energy efficiency in Belgium, to increase security of supply and to strengthen price competitiveness." says Peter Claes, director Febeliec.

"And the winner is...."

Three finalists were selected to present their project before a jury* of Belgian top industrialists and academics. The jury selected in the end the project 'Solar Hydrogen from Air' as the winner. Engineers Tom Bosserez, Jan Rongé and Lisa Geerts, as well as Doctor Christos Trompoukis and Professor Doctor Engineer Johan A. Martens (all from KU Leuven), received today the first Febeliec Energy Award.

"It was not an easy task" declares François Cornelis, President of the jury. "We had 3 strong finalists and each project contained some strong elements. It was finally the innovative content of this project that made the difference. It combines new scientific insights in the field of catalysis with a pragmatic method to produce stand-alone hydrogen. The project shortens and simplifies the route to produce a storable energy vector (hydrogen) from solar energy."

François Cornelis President of the jury, together with Luc Sterckx President of Febeliec, handed over the Award today. Besides the award, the winners also obtained the associated price package with a value of about 4.000 euros.

*Members of the jury:

François Cornelis, former Vice President of Total, President of the jury - *Marc Grynberg*, CEO Umicore - *Dirk Fransaer*, General Manager VITO - *Philippe Bodson*, President Exmar and Hamon - *André Bouffioux*, CEO Siemens - *Ronnie Belmans*, CEO EnergyVille - *Philippe Warny*, Vice President Industrial Director Solvay Energy Services - *Luc Huysmans*, journalist Trends - *Christine Scharff*, journalist L'Echo - *Luc Sterckx*, President Febeliec