

- Press Release -

## Expert jury doubly impressed by intelligent energy storage

**Dominik Lembke and Dr. Dileep Agnihotri receive bwcon awards for best business ideas at 9th Heidelberg Innovation Forum**

*The 9th Heidelberg Innovation Forum saw a jury of experts presenting awards for top business ideas. Intelligent energy storage solutions were particularly successful at this year's event, with Dominik Lembke's team from the University of Heidelberg/Bavarian Elite Academy receiving the bwcon best business idea award for H2Hybrid. Baden-Württemberg: Connected – bwcon – is a regional business initiative. The special award for best international idea went to Dr. Dileep Agnihotri.*

**Stuttgart/Heidelberg, 23 April 2010** – Attended by some 100 researchers, businesses and investors, the 9th Heidelberg Innovation Forum concluded with an awards ceremony for the most compelling business ideas. Winner of the best business idea award from the Baden-Württemberg: Connected – bwcon – initiative was H2Hybrid, which was submitted by Dominik Lembke and his team from the Bavarian Elite Academy. This concept is based on technology developed by Professor Hans-Jörg Himmel of the University of Heidelberg and involves storing energy in a hydrogen storage system based on metal hydrides, which can be flexibly integrated into the domestic power supply. The idea is to store energy when electricity costs are low and feed it back into the grid when prices increase.

To support Dominik Lembke and his team in their efforts to bring the product to market, their prize is personal business coaching as part of bwcon's

“Coach & Connect+” programme. The aim of this programme is to provide targeted, industry-specific advice and assistance to new and expanding high-tech companies and founders throughout the various start-up phases – from establishing the company to expansion.

The bwcon award for best international business idea went to Dr. Dileep Agnihotri for his energy storage solution based on double-layer capacitors with a high energy density, which are less bulky and costly than current versions. Among the sectors likely to benefit from this development are vehicle manufacturing, bus fleets and wind farms – a promising market that has seen growth of around 30% over the past five years.

The high-calibre jury consisted of Christian Couturier, Director, National Research Council Canada – IIT, Dr. Matthias Dill of High-Tech-Gründerfonds, Reinhard Hamburger, Managing Director, bwcon e.V., and Dr. Mathias Scheiblich, Business Angel at CyberForum Karlsruhe.

### **Video presentations by international participants**

Even the ash cloud from Iceland’s volcano failed to disrupt the matchmaking event, which was jointly organised by MFG Baden-Württemberg and the European Media Laboratory. Some of the international researchers and start-ups who were unable to attend in person due to the flight ban hooked up to the Villa Bosch Studio via video link from the UK, Israel, Canada and the US. The expert audience and jury were thus able to view and assess the presentations on a large screen.

### **9th Heidelberg Innovation Forum focuses on green IT and cleantech**

This year’s Heidelberg Innovation Forum featured short, punchy presentations of promising business ideas and outstanding IT research results and was again aimed at investors and industry decision-makers. The focus of the event this time was market-oriented solutions from the green IT and cleantech industry. In the “Biotechnology in the Cleantech Sector” track,

for example, event technology partner Biopro Baden-Württemberg presented four innovative ideas in the field of industrial biotechnology.

The 25 researchers, developers and entrepreneurs in the hot seat each had a maximum of ten minutes to persuade the assembled experts and four-member jury of the viability of their ideas. For these enterprising individuals and others like them, the Heidelberg Innovation Forum is also an ideal opportunity to find suitable investors and cooperation partners for their projects.

**Related links:**

[www.heidelberger-innovationsforum.de](http://www.heidelberger-innovationsforum.de)

[www.mfg-innovation.de](http://www.mfg-innovation.de)

[www.bwcon.de](http://www.bwcon.de)

[www.eml.villa-bosch.de](http://www.eml.villa-bosch.de)

[www.eml-development.de](http://www.eml-development.de)

**Print-ready images:**

<http://bit.ly/aQnQcv>

and on request

### **About the Heidelberg Innovation Forum**

The Heidelberg Innovation Forum has been successfully bringing together IT researchers and market players in the early innovation phase since 2005. The aim of the event is to support licensing of technologies and financing of start-ups and improve cooperation between research institutes and businesses. The forum has an excellent track record: over 250 innovators and developers from 10 countries have presented their ideas at previous events, with more than half of them making valuable contacts with investors and decision-makers from industry.

### **About the European Media Laboratory**

The European Media Laboratory GmbH (EML) is a Heidelberg-based company involved in the research and development of innovative IT solutions. It was established by SAP co-founder Klaus Tschira. In line with its guiding principle to "think beyond the limits", the EML conducts R&D activities in the fields of human-technology interaction and natural language processing. EML GmbH is headquartered in Heidelberg at Villa Bosch, the former home of Nobel Prize winner Carl Bosch (1874-1940).

### **About MFG Baden-Württemberg**

MFG is one of Europe's leading innovation agencies for IT and media, focusing on information technology, software, telecommunications and the creative industries. By networking the creative and technology sectors, MFG aims to strengthen Southwest Germany as a business location, promote cooperation in Europe and enhance collaboration in global value chains. As an expert in knowledge-based services, MFG's specific focus lies on sectors such as automotive, engineering and

healthcare as potential customers and buyers. With services certified according to the ISO 9001 standard and 100,000 technology links, MFG is an international pioneer in systemic regional development in the context of public-private partnerships.

#### **About Baden-Württemberg: Connected e.V.**

Baden-Württemberg: Connected e.V. (bwcon) is the top business initiative dedicated to promoting Baden-Württemberg as a location for innovation and technology. More than 4,600 experts use the bwcon platform to benefit from systematic networking opportunities. As one of Europe's most successful technology networks, bwcon brings together businesses and research institutes.

bwcon organises the leading annual technology award CyberOne, enabling us to reach fledgling companies whose innovative business concepts help shape trends and set new benchmarks.

bwcon was awarded first prize in the 2008 Competence Network competition held by Germany's Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, in recognition of our innovative, tailored service that adds real value for bwcon members.

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This press release is also available at [www.mfg-innovation.com](http://www.mfg-innovation.com).