

Icotec wins JEC Innovations Award

Altstätten (CH)/ Paris (F), 13th February, 2007 – The company Icotec AG (Altstätten, Switzerland) will be awarded with the first prize of the JEC Innovations Award in the category ‘medical applications’ at this year’s JEC Composites Show in Paris (April 2 until 5, 2007). The carbon composite implant for stabilization of the cervical spine that icotec developed convinced the jury. The JEC Innovations Award is the most sought after innovations prize worldwide in the composite industry.

Every year in spring the JEC Composites Show is held in Paris. It is the leading trade fair of the composite industry. In the course of this exhibition a prize is awarded for innovative products and materials by the jury which consists of fifteen specialists and experts. The award ceremony is one of the exhibition’s highlights: icotec CEO Roger Stadler will be receiving the prize at the Museum d’Orsay in the beginning of April this year. The international importance of the JEC Innovations Award is displayed by the participation of companies from Europe, the Asia Pacific and both Americas.

The icotec research team with Prof. Fritz Magerl, Ronald Wieling and Dr. Roger Tognini have developed the award winning spinal implant in an extensive cooperation with the German customer Signus Medizintechnik and the English biomaterials supplier Invibio. The award winning implant is the very first bone plate system with screws for stabilizing the cervical spine made of carbon composite. The properties of the material facilitate post-OP monitoring of the healing progress with MRI and X-ray without undesired artefacts that distort the images, a problem that occurs with metal implants. In addition, the composite implants stand out with their excellent fatigue resistance in dynamic applications.

There is no doubt that this Award in Paris will increase the already great interest among implant companies in the icotec technology. Using composites is relatively new for implants and surgical instruments. With the patented CFM production process icotec is worldwide the



only manufacturer that can produce such high load bearing components like screws made of continuous fibre reinforced composites. The main interest for orthopaedic and dental implants lies in the radiolucency and fatigue resistance of the biocompatible composite material. Also, the CFM production process allows for complex product designs with little process related restrictions - unlike machining of titanium implants.

The Managing Director of icotec, Roger Stadler comments the winning of the JEC Innovations Award as follows: "Winning the JEC Innovations Award is a great honour for us and it is a motivation and assurance that we are on the right track. Over the past few months icotec has been feeling an increasing interest in our Composite Flow Moulding Technology and the many different application possibilities of our products. For some time we have been in negotiations with some of the big companies in the orthopaedic and dental industry and we are evaluating future joint developments in implant technology. We feel there is a promising growth potential for icotec in the orthopaedic and dental markets."



Icotec (Altstätten) is an innovative high tech company in Switzerland. The company is based on a project at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich which developed a production process to industrially manufacture bone screws made of composites. Today, this spin-off has further developed the technology and is developing and producing small weight bearing products made of composites. Icotec is operating in the medical, aeronautical, aerospace and machine industries as well as in niche markets.

With the patented Composite Flow Moulding (CFM) production process icotec is able to produce complexly shaped products out of continuous fibre reinforced thermoplastics. The high content of continuous fibres gives the components outstanding mechanical strength that only could be achieved with metals before. The CFM process enables the production of even smallest details such as threading, without cutting the fibres. The composite materials used are corrosion resistant, biocompatible, fatigue resistant and very light weight.

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The R&D Team at icotec: Prof. Friedrich Magerl: Senior Advisor Medical, Bekim Bajramaj: Designer, Dr. Roger Tognini: R & D Manager, Ronald Wieling: Project Manager, Roger Stadler: Managing Director.



Winner of the JEC Innovations Award: The spinal implant for the stabilization of the cervical spine made of carbon composite by icotec.



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