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First prize in International DSM Awards for Chemistry and Technology 2004 presented to Belgian researcher for research in the field of biosensors

Belgian researcher Filip Frederix today won the first prize in the International DSM Awards for Chemistry and Technology. An international jury selected Filip Frederix, a doctoral student at the Catholic University of Louvain, for his research in the field of biosensors. His work involved the development of sensors for biomedical applications. Frederix's work has made it possible to produce highly sensitive biosensors that enable certain types of blood tests to be performed quickly, easily and cheaply. His research project was a multidisciplinary blend of physics, chemistry, nanotechnology and biomedical technology. Frederix was presented with a cash prize of EUR 7,500 by Mr Jan Zuidam, the vice-chairman of DSM's Managing Board. The winner of the second prize, Jürgen Groll, received a cash prize of EUR 5,000, and the winner of the third prize, Nathalie Charlier, was presented with a cash prize of EUR 2,500. The other six prize-winners all received prizes of EUR 1,250.

Presenting the diplomas and prizes to the nine prize-winners at a ceremony held at Vaalsbroek Chateau in Vaals, the Netherlands, Mr Jan Zuidam, the vice-chairman of DSM's Managing Board, said: "This award underscores the importance we attach to innovation and fundamental research. It's also been gratifying to see that, this year for the first time, most of the nominees were women. The prospects for the future look good."

Since 2003, the DSM Awards have been open to candidates from three regions: the Netherlands, Belgium and the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. Regional juries short-listed three candidates from their own regions from the large number of entries received this year. After the nine nominees had given presentations on their research to an international jury yesterday, the jury today announced the three prize-winners.

Encouraging pioneering research

The DSM Awards for Chemistry and Technology were founded in 1986 and are presented each year. The contest is rapidly becoming a major event on the international calendar. Until 2001, the contest was open only to doctoral students from research institutes in the Netherlands and Flemish-speaking Belgium. The catchment area was extended to Belgium's French-speaking region in 2002, and since last year, the contest has also been open to researchers from the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

DSM performs a great deal of its R&D work in close collaboration with universities. DSM hopes that its annual DSM Awards for Chemistry and Technology will encourage young research scientists to undertake creative, pioneering research.

This is important because this kind of research often provides the basis for the development of new, knowledge-intensive industrial processes and high-tech products. DSM also believes that high-quality scientific research is heavily dependent on high-quality university education.

Jury report

The jury had the following to say in its report about the winner of the first prize: *“An interesting aspect of the project is the fact that it has involved the development of a new technique, based on nanotechnology, that has led to the production of a portable, cheap and user-friendly biosensor.”* The jury expects the findings of the research performed not only by the first prize-winner, but also by the other laureates, to make valuable contributions to new developments in the disciplines in question.

Professor Emmo Meijer, the chairman of the international jury and DSM’s Chief Technology Officer, added: *“We were greatly impressed by the enormous volume of work involved in the project, and the international acclaim that Filip Frederix has already won for his work.”*

The winners of the first, second and third prizes

Filip Frederix conducted his research at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, under the supervision of Professor Guido Maes (Faculty of Chemistry) and Professor Gustaaf Borghs (Faculty of Physics and Astronomy).

Jürgen Groll conducted his research at the University of Ulm, Germany, as a member of the Organic Chemistry III / Macromolecular Chemistry Department, working under the supervision of Professor M. Möller.

Nathalie Charlier conducted her research at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium, as a member of the Medical Sciences Faculty, working under the supervision of Professor E. de Clerq and Professor J. Neyts.

Other winners

The other six prize-winners are:

Belgium

An Herreman

Catholic University of Louvain

Germany – North Rhine-Westphalia

Carolin Peter

Westphalian Wilhelms University, Münster

Alina Buda

Aachen University

The Netherlands
Pascal Jonkheijm
Anna Hotze
Erik Offerman

Eindhoven University of Technology
University of Leiden
Delft University of Technology

Note for editors:

Photographs of the presentation of the award by Jan Zuidam, the vice-chairman of DSM's Managing Board, may be downloaded from www.dsm.com as from Wednesday 9 June.

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