



Press Release

Presentation of the Quadrant Award 2005

Lenzburg, November 4, 2005 – Quadrant, a global leader in the manufacture of high-performance thermoplastics and composites, presented the «Quadrant Award» for the first time last Saturday. This scientific award with a prize of EUR 15 000 was won by Laurence Mathieu of France, who wrote her thesis at the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne in Switzerland. An exceptional feature this year was the award of two second prizes, reflecting the high quality of the entries. The winners of these awards, with a prize of EUR 5 000 each, were Juan P. Hernández-Ortiz from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, and Jan K. W. Sandler from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. The international invitation to submit entries for the award was addressed to graduates who had produced a thesis work in the subject field of «Materials and processes related to engineering and high-performance plastics and composites» between August 1, 2004, and July 31, 2005. Prior to the awards presentation ceremony, the jury had nominated six candidates from the entries received, who then had the opportunity to present their work to the jury of experts in Lenzburg, Switzerland.

The jury selected Laurence Mathieu as winner of the first prize for her thesis entitled «Processing of porous polymer composites for bone tissue engineering» because *«she was driving innovative ideas into an impressive realisation in the highly complex and transdisciplinary field of biomaterials, and this by understanding both the theoretical possibilities and the practical limitations involved in the creation of these emerging materials»*. The two second prizes were conferred for the theses entitled «Boundary integral equations for viscous flows – non-Newtonian behavior and solid inclusions» by Juan P. Hernández-Ortiz and «Structure-property-relationships of carbon nanotubes/nanofibres and their polymer composites» by Jan K. W. Sandler. Juan P. Hernández-Ortiz was praised by the jury *«for an excellent contribution to the theoretical developments in computational rheology, and for an exciting visualisation of complex phenomena in polymer and composites processing»*, whereas Jan K. W. Sandler was acclaimed *«for bringing clarity and structure in the fast evolving field of carbon nanotube based composites, and for scaling the process-property relationships up to the level of commercial manufacturing techniques»*.

The members of the academic jury are on the staff of internationally acclaimed universities or institutions, have many years of experience in the field of plastics sciences, and supervise numerous master's graduates and doctoral candidates annually. The members of the jury are: Professor Volker Altstädt, Chair of the department for Polymer Engineering, University of Bayreuth, Germany, Professor Jan-Anders Månson, Vice-President and Head of Innovation and Valorisation, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland, and Professor Ignaas Verpoest, Professor in the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium.

The number of entries received was encouraging, especially since Quadrant was conferring this award for the first time. The international nature of the entries was also very pleasing. The launch of the Quadrant Award is intended to foster talent and facilitate access to industry for plastics scientists and engineers after completion of their academic training. Quadrant is also seeking to further intensify the good cooperative relationship it already enjoys with the scientific community.

The award presented was designed by the internationally renowned Swiss artist Beat Zoderer. The original artist's multiple (in an edition of 3/3) is based on the artist's idea that thermoplastics can be worked in the liquid state. Liquid plastic dripping on to an object such as paper or sheeting produces drops of different sizes, which are also related to the emergence of innovative ideas in the form of «drops of imagination». Beat Zoderer has translated this idea into a relief landscape of circles. The base material used was a plastic sheet produced from Ertacetal C blue 50 at Quadrant's plant in Tielt, Belgium.

Quadrant, a global leader in high-performance polymer materials in the form of semi-finished and finished products with locations in 18 countries, generates annual sales of some 700 million Swiss francs. The speciality engineering thermoplastics and composites manufactured and marketed by more than 2000 employees worldwide are superior in performance to metals and other materials and are used in a growing number of applications, primarily in the capital goods industry. Together with leaders in a wide range of customer markets, Quadrant is continuously developing new areas of application. Thanks to its clear strategic orientation and focus, Quadrant has generated substantial added value for customers and shareholders since it was established in 1996 and is well prepared to continue expanding its market leadership in future.

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The winners of the Quadrant Award 2005 (left to right): Juan P. Hernández-Ortiz (2nd prize), University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA; Laurence Mathieu (1st prize), École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland; Jan K. W. Sandler (2nd prize), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom



Group photograph of all six nominated candidates, the jury of experts and the organizers (left to right / front row, then back row): Professor Jan-Anders Månson, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland, Professor Volker Altstädt, University of Bayreuth, Germany, Professor Ignaas Verpoest, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, Jan K. W. Sandler (winner of a 2nd prize), René-Pierre Müller (CEO Quadrant); Jeffrey Lawrence, Priscilla Lips, Douwe Homminga, Juan Hernández-Ortiz (winner of a 2nd prize), Laurence Mathieu (winner of the 1st prize), Astrid Keller (Quadrant)



The Quadrant Award designed by distinguished Swiss artist Beat Zoderer.