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Borealis Student Innovation Award 2011: recognising high quality olefins and polyolefins theses of outstanding students

Borealis, a leading provider of chemical and innovative plastics solutions, has announced the winners of its 2011 Borealis Student Innovation Awards. On January 19, 2012 Alfred Stern, Borealis Senior Vice President Innovation & Technology, presented Rana Qudaih and Dr. Said Mehdiabadi with their awards, certificates and monetary prizes at the Lentos Kunstmuseum Linz, Austria.

The awards recognise the most innovative research papers for master's and doctorate degree students working in olefins and polyolefins. The master thesis award went to Rana Qudaih, while Dr. Said Mehdiabadi received the PhD award. The jury of independent academics and Borealis representatives said it recognised the high quality of all submissions and expressed its appreciation for the overall standards of innovation and insight, which will bring significant benefits for the industry in the future.

Alfred Stern said that Rana Qudaih showed "in a very comprehensive way" the recycling possibilities of crosslinked polyethylene cable materials: "The broadness and applicability of her work was impressive." Alfred Stern also complimented Rana as the first female winner of the master thesis award.

The title of Dr. Mehdiabadi's PhD is "Synthesis, Characterization and Polymerization Kinetic Study of Long Chain Branched Polyolefins Made with Two Single-Site Catalysts." According to the jury, Dr. Mehdiabadi was able to present a new pathway for polyolefin catalysis leading to structures of high industrial relevance.

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Borealis held the awards ceremony during its 17th annual Innovation Day. This year's event was titled "Accelerating Excellence." The Borealis Student Innovation Award is an important element in Borealis' support for the development of new talent and thought processes in chemicals and polymers. Late last year, Borealis further increased its support for external students and research with the creation of the Borealis Social Scholarship Programme, under which pupils, students and international research programmes in Europe have been targeted to receive support for the first time. As a first step, long-term contracts were signed with the Johannes Kepler University Linz and the TGM Vienna (School of Technology) in December last year.

Announcing this new initiative, Borealis Chief Executive Mark Garrett said that society needs skilled professionals dedicated to finding innovative solutions for a sustainable future. "As a leader in the plastics industry, we see it as part of our duty to society to provide financial support to pupils and students who need it to help them pursue their courses of study in these fields," he said. "The Borealis Social Scholarship project is aimed at helping them realise their full potential."

The **call for the 2012 Borealis Student Innovation Awards** will be issued in early April. Potential entrants will have until mid-November to submit their applications. Admissible subject areas include olefin and polyolefin production processes, analysis and characterization, polyolefin properties, applications, sustainability, and discoveries in the polyolefin world that have practical relevance for society. Details will be available on <http://www.borealisgroup.com/innovation/student-innovation-award/>.

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Rana Qudaih, winner of the master thesis award, and Alfred Stern, Borealis Senior Vice President Innovation & Technology



Saeid Mehdiabadi, winner of the PhD thesis award, and Alfred Stern, Borealis Senior Vice President Innovation & Technology

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Borealis is a leading provider of chemical and innovative plastics solutions that create value for society. With sales of EUR 6.3 billion in 2010, customers in over 120 countries, and around 5,100 employees worldwide, Borealis is owned 64% by the International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) of Abu Dhabi and 36% by OMV, the leading energy group in the European growth belt. Borealis is headquartered in Vienna, Austria, and has production locations, innovation centres and customer service centres across Europe and the Americas.

Through Borouge, a joint venture between Borealis and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), one of the world's major oil and gas companies, the company's footprint reaches out to the Middle East, Asia Pacific, the Indian sub-continent and Africa. Established in 1998, Borouge employs approximately 1,600 people, has customers in more than 50 countries and its headquarters are in Abu Dhabi in the UAE and Singapore.

Building on Borealis' unique Borstar® technology and their more than 50 years experience in polyolefins, Borealis and Borouge provide innovative, value creating plastics solutions for the infrastructure (pipe systems and power and communication cables), automotive and advanced packaging markets. In addition, Borealis offers a wide range of base chemicals from melamine and fertilizer to phenol and acetone.

Today, Borealis and Borouge have a manufacturing capacity of over 5.4 million tonnes of polyolefins (polyethylene and polypropylene) per year having recently completed a 1.5 million tonne capacity expansion in Abu Dhabi. The Borouge 3 plant expansion will be completed at the end of 2013 with a further capacity of 2.5 million tonnes per year (t/y) being fully operational in mid-2014. The companies continue to invest to ensure that their customers throughout the value chain and across the globe can always rely on product quality, consistency and security of supply.

Borouge and Borealis are committed to the principles of Responsible Care® and proactively contribute to addressing the world's water and sanitation challenges through their Water for the World™ initiative.

For more information visit:

www.borealisgroup.com/innovation/student-innovation-award/

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