



Press Release

Nuremberg/Germany, 8 May 2015

ECPE President Prof. Dr. Leo Lorenz receives Ernst Blickle Award 2014

The Ernst Blickle Award 2014 was granted to Prof. Dr. Leo Lorenz in Bruchsal Castle by the Chairman of the charitable SEW-EURODRIVE Foundation, Mr. Rainer Blickle.

The Ernst Blickle Award worth 100,000 € is awarded every two years, making it one of the highest-paying awards for individuals in Europe. Award winners are selected from the areas of commerce and technology. As far as technology is concerned, the Foundation considers both basic and applied research, in particular in the areas of drive engineering and the control of production processes, including control via the use of electronics.

Dr. Lorenz was awarded in recognition of his outstanding international contributions to the development and market introduction of new technologies for highly efficient conversion of electrical energy with applications in the field of renewable energy, industrial automation and e-mobility. He has taken the initial development of voltage-controlled power semiconductor and smart power technologies significantly influenced by fundamental scientific work and pioneering decisions to launch radically new power semiconductor concepts which play a key role in the field of cutting-edge technology today.

Dr. Lorenz contributed significantly to the development of existing power electronic conferences with up to date technologies and pushed for setting up new conferences to cover important future fields of application. Still today he is having a strong voice in the key power electronic conferences. Furthermore, Dr. Lorenz is sharing his knowledge in power devices and their challenges in application by teaching courses at various universities worldwide and initiated many topics for Master and PhD students. Although he has officially retired he enjoys teaching and is motivating students going for an engineering study and is inspiring young scientists to drive research in power electronics.

Moreover he made a very important contribution to strengthen Europe's position in the global competition for new technologies through bundling pre-competitive research in power electronics in form of his initiative for the foundation of the ECPE European Center for Power Electronics e.V., the European Industry-driven Research Network which he presides as president since 2003.

With the granting of the Ernst Blickle Award to Prof. Dr. Leo Lorenz the SEW-EURODRIVE Foundation honours an internationally highly esteemed expert who has rendered outstanding services to the promotion of a key technology for eco-friendly generation and use of electrical energy in Europe.