Press Release

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF TEN NOMINATIONS FOR THE WIJFFELS INNOVATION AWARD

Rabobank has announced the ten nominees for the 2009 Herman Wijffels Innovation Award. They have been selected from a record number of 533 entries. This figure reveals that the number of entries has doubled within just two years.

Ruud Nijs, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility at Rabobank Nederland: 'The award provides Dutch entrepreneurs with an added impetus to realise promising ideas and to move forward with their innovations. All of the innovations benefit people and the environment. As Rabobank we are convinced that it is vital for businesses to focus on entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainability because the quest for innovation continues to be important, particularly during the current economic times.'

The nominees that will win one of the four awards will be announced on Wednesday, 2 December 2009. This is the eighth annual edition of the Herman Wijffels Innovation Award. The entries include two young entrepreneurs who have developed a harvester for celery. Another entry is a machine that dyes textiles using CO2 and pure dyes instead of chemicals and water. A picture watch, which is an aid for people with a mental disability, has been entered by another nominee. And there are seven more innovative entries that all have a chance of winning the innovation award.

An assessment committee has studied the submitted innovations in recent months. A jury of external experts, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Rabobank Executive Board Piet Moerland, will decide in December who will be awarded the grand prize of 50,000 euros and the second, third and incentive prizes. A total of 122,500 euros in prize money is available. Rabobank has been presenting the Herman Wijffels Innovation Award annually since 2002. The award was instituted in 1999 in conjunction with the retirement of former Chairman of the Executive Board Herman Wijffels and its objective is to stimulate innovation and corporate social responsibility. The award is now viewed as one of the most prestigious innovation awards in the Netherlands.

List of nominees for the Herman Wijffels Innovation Award 2009

Bram-Pieter Vriens, Mucosa BV, Amsterdam
Mucosa BV was the first in the world to successfully grow gingiva outside the body for oral transplants. This human donor gum tissue, Gingraft, grafts onto existing gums. There are no rejection responses as Gingraft takes on the DNA profile of the patient. Gingraft's development is being driven forward to test prostheses, toothpaste etc. as a fully-fledged replacement for animal testing.
www.gingraft.com

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Reinier Siderius and Boris Gubbels, Sidcon Milieutechniek BV, Wijchen
An underground compactor that reduces the volume of collected plastics waste by a factor 10. The compactor is fitted under existing collection containers. Containers fill up less quickly, have to be emptied less frequently and are therefore available longer for use by consumers. The collected and compacted plastics are still readily sortable.
www.sidcon.nl

Roy Klaren and Niels de Bont, Atom Engineering, Haarsteeg
Two young entrepreneurs who have developed a harvester for celery. Roy and Niels know from personal experience that it is much better to do this with a machine than manually. Celery produces a stinging juice that burns into your hands when you cut it. And working the soil on your knees is also no longer the norm in these modern times. The harvester is controlled fully automatically and the celery is sent to a packaging table. They developed the machine while still studying, in collaboration with a learning company.
www.atomengineering.nl

Klaas Wubs, KunststofWerktuigBouw BV, Boxtel
A biological air scrubber for poultry farms. This air scrubber does not use chemicals and consumes much less rinsing liquid. The system's operation is 100% closed, enabling responsible air scrubbing for poultry farms. While customary air scrubbers are designed only to limit offensive odours, this biological air scrubber also reduces fine particle emissions.
www.kwb.nl

Bert de Gooijer, Gomecsys BV, Naarden
The innovative Go-engine technology makes motor car engines much more economical. This technology can be used to vary the compression ratio and adapt it to the driving conditions. Applied to a 2-cilinder engine, it reduces CO2 emissions and fuel consumption by 50%. As long as electrical cars are not yet generally accepted and used, this is an excellent solution for combustion engines.
www.gomecsys.com

Erik Staijen, Blue4green, Enschede
A combination of microtechnology and nanotechnology makes it possible to diagnose an animal's condition within two minutes, in any location. The lab-on-a-chip is at the heart of the solution. The chip is fitted in a holder in which a drop of blood or saliva is deposited. This is then put into what is known as a lab book and the relevant measurements are carried out, enabling veterinarians to perform a reliable analysis on site.
www.blue4green.com

Reinier Mommaal, DyeCoo Textile Systems, Weesp
A machine that dyes textiles using CO2 and pure dyes instead of chemicals and water. Today's dyeing machines use 50-100 litres of water per kg of textile and 28 billion kilograms of textile are dyed annually. This produces enormous pollution. With the Dyecoo system, dry textiles are placed in

the machine, dyed using CO2 under high pressure of 300 bar and are dry when they are taken out. The CO2 required is sourced from emissions of other industrial processes and is re-used at a rate of 95% in the dyeing process. No chemical dyes, no use of water, re-cycling of CO2 and enormous energy savings.
www.dyecoo.com

Robin De La Roij, Powercem Technologies BV, Moerdijk
Immocem: an additive that immobilises toxic substances in sludge or soil. Adding Immocem to polluted soil in combination with cement and water initiates a chemical/physical process. Immocem immobilises the hazardous properties of the toxic substances, including toxicity and radiation. This produces an end product that is fit for use as a safe construction material. Polluted soil and sludge no longer have to be thermally decontaminated or stored, but can be treated with Immocem and re-used as an input material for building materials.
www.powercem.com

Nanko Brattinga, Timer BV, Sneek
The picture watch: an aid for people with dyschronia. You can't tell the time, can't structure your day and have no awareness of time - this often happens to people with a mental disability. It produces unrest and limits their independence. The picture watch is a watch that uses pictograms or photographs and emits a beep at times set in advance. This tells users when they have to go to bed or have to work. Or, conversely, that it is the weekend and time for other activities.
www.beeldhorloge.nl

Hjalmar van Raemdonck, Gandert van Raemdonck and Hessel Jongebreur, Ephicas, Delft
SideWings: aerodynamic, fuel-saving side skirts for trucks. They provide a simple way for trucks to achieve fuel savings of up to 9%. In addition they help to prevent cyclists from being caught between the wheels and are noise-reducing.
www.ephicas.eu

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