

Press Release

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FLEXIBILITY FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION - FLEXCONNECT PROJECT WINS AIT POSTER AWARD 2020

New platform is missing link between households and energy suppliers

Research at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology is based on the innovative ideas of our bright minds. However, even the best research should not serve an end in itself – it needs economic exploitation potential. That is why the AIT has been cooperating with the Lower Austrian funding agencies tecnet equity and accent since 2010 within the scope of the annual Poster Award. The goal: to get young scientists excited about the market and to support them in the business-oriented implementation of their projects.

With the Poster Award, the AIT has supported more than 200 young talents in recent years; some of them have since successfully established their own start-ups. This year, 18 diploma students, doctoral students, and junior scientists from six of our eight centres took part in the competition. "For research institutions, it is increasingly a matter of finding and specifically promoting talent. For us, promotion means making our young scientists aware of the numerous opportunities for exploiting their projects at an early stage," says Prof. Wolfgang Knoll, AIT Managing Director, summing up the purpose of the initiative.

The goal of the Poster Award: Identifying and fully exploiting economic exploitation potential at an early stage

The Poster Award would not be possible without the know-how of our partners tecnet and accent. "We help AIT scientists to develop an appropriate exploitation strategy and suitable funding. The knowledge about the economic exploitability of research should be anchored in young talents as early as possible," explains Doris Agneter, Managing Director of tecnet equity NÖ Technologiebeteiligungs-Invest GmbH.

"The best scientific work is of no use if it is not presented in such a way that the business community also recognises its potential," adds Michael Moll, Managing Director of accent Inkubator GmbH. "As a funding and consulting institution, we specialise in supporting technology-oriented, research-intensive start-ups."

Innovative concepts for the energy turnaround and technology for the intuitive collection of health data high on the agenda

A central aspect of the energy transition is that private households are increasingly becoming prosumers (consumers who are also producers) instead of purely passive consumers. The first place of this year's AIT Poster Award, endowed with prize money of 1,500 Euros, went to Regina Hemm from the Center for Energy. With her work "Prosumer flexibilities to electricity markets", Hemm presented an innovative approach for an intelligent interface between prosumers and electricity suppliers. The platform automatically controls the interaction between prosumers and energy suppliers and cleverly bundles energy components so that they can successfully compete

on the spot and balance energy markets. Thanks to this interface, private households will be able to participate in short-term trading of electricity in the future.

Second place in the AIT Poster Award with a prize money of 1,000 Euros went to Andreas Ziegl from the Center for Health & Bioresources. The biomedical engineer is working on the Timed Up-and-Go (TUG) tool at the Graz site in cooperation with the Geriatric Health Centres of the City of Graz and the Medical University of Graz. The device measures, completely autonomously, the time it takes a person to move three metres away from a chair, turn around and walk back to the chair, and serves as a basis for assessing the risk of falls in older people. One patent for the tool has already been granted and another is pending.

Third place with prize money of 500 euros went to Theresa Fink from the Center for Energy. The architect works in the AIT's City Intelligence Lab on integrated urban planning solutions through digital modelling. This is where the "cities of the future" are planned, in which the complex effects of planning on the economy, environment or mobility can be made transparent and immediately visible. Key technologies such as augmented reality (AR) or artificial intelligence (AI) are used to create and visualise physical calculations and complex simulations. Thanks to state-of-the-art technology, Fink shares its digital designs with project partners around the world.

Links:

AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH www.ait.ac.at
tecnet equity <http://www.tecnet.co.at>
accent start-up service www.accent.at

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The participants of the 11th AIT Poster Award with our sponsors tecnet and accent.

Press contact:

Silvia Haselhuhn, M.A.
Corporate and Marketing Communications
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology
T +43 (0)50550 4831
silvia.haselhuhn@ait.ac.at | www.ait.ac.at

Mag. Michael H. Hlava
Head of Corporate and Marketing Communications
AIT Austrian Institute of Technology
T +43 (0)50550 4014
michael.h.hlava@ait.ac.at | www.ait.ac.at