

Society for Adhesion and Adhesives press release: No Restriction

Award of the 2013 de Bruyne Medal



Stephan Sprenger, currently the Senior Market Development Manager for Composites and Lightweight Construction at Evonik Hanse GmbH, Geesthacht, Germany, is to be awarded the 2013 de Bruyne Medal. This will be presented to him at the Society for Adhesion and Adhesive's International conference, 'Adhesion 13', to be held at the National Science Learning Centre at the University of York from 4 to 6 September 2013.

The de Bruyne medal is named in honour of the founder of Aero Research Limited: Norman de Bruyne FREng, FRS (1904 – 1997) and Stephan Sprenger is only the seventh recipient of this prestigious award. He follows: Stephanie Wellman (Permabond, 1996), Dr Iain Webster (Smith and Nephew, 1999), Dr Michael Owen (Dow Corning, 2002), Dr Bill Lees (Permabond, 2005), Barrie Hayes (Huntsman Advanced Materials, 2008) and John Bishopp (Star Adhesion, 2011).

Norman de Bruyne was a multi-disciplined scientist who had the ability and foresight to translate theoretical science into very practical, commercial applications. Three apposite examples are: the development, in 1936, of the first structural composite [Gordon Aerolite[®]] for use in aircraft; in 1942 the invention of Redux[®] – a synthetic heat-curing adhesive - for structural bonding; and patenting, in 1938, the concept of bonded metallic honeycomb structural sandwich panels. All three processes are still widely used in the aerospace industry.

The medal is presented to an individual who displays these characteristics. It is an acknowledgment of the recipient's personal contribution to innovation in the field of adhesives.

Dr. Sprenger has had a distinguished career with Schill+Seilacher "Struktol" AG in Germany and USA (Polydis Products) from 1992 to 2002

and Evonik Industries, formerly hanse chemie AG respectively nanoresins AG from 2002 to the present day.

He has made his name as a world expert in the development and industrial production of toughening polymers and masterbatches: these include the adducts of epoxy resins and reactive liquid polymers such as carboxyl-terminated acrylonitrile-butadiene liquid rubbers, epoxy functional core shell tougheners and, latterly, masterbatches of nanosilica particles in epoxy resins. All these materials are key formulating ingredients for use in epoxy resins, e.g. for composites or electronic applications, and, most importantly for structural adhesives.

The results of his work and his long co-operation with Imperial College London, in the evaluation of these materials, are well documented through numerous patents, printed papers and presentations made at numerous international adhesive conferences in Europe and the United States of America.

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