



INNOVATION convention - 2011

5 - 6 December 2011
Square - Brussels Meeting Centre

First EU Prize for Women Innovators

Talent, teamwork, creativity and determination are key ingredients for a successful career in science. The EU Prize for Women Innovators celebrates women who have combined their passion for science with a head for business to set up innovative enterprises. It showcases the business achievements of scientists who have benefited from EU research and innovation programmes and was designed to give public recognition to outstanding women entrepreneurs who brought their innovative ideas to the market. The example set by these exceptional innovators will inspire more women to become entrepreneurs and bridge the worlds of science and industry!

The task of selecting just three winners was very tough! The Jury of high level independent experts heard fantastic stories from 87 women of 23 nationalities (11 of whom started a company in a country other than their own) bringing innovation to many fields and many markets: windows from Denmark, nanomaterials from Portugal, parent and child adapted shopping trolleys from Sweden, fibre ships from Croatia, super magnets from Hungary, high performing lasers from Switzerland, tissue regeneration from the UK and from Austria a cure for the common cold.



Winner 1st Prize of €100,000

Dr. Gitte Neubauer, Co-founder CELLZOME,
Vice-President for Research Operations

Her groundbreaking research into chemo-proteomics is driving her company's work on new, better targeted drugs against inflammatory diseases and cancer.

Dr. Neubauer is one of the founders of Cellzome, a drug discovery company located in Heidelberg that focuses on the discovery of novel drug candidates to treat inflammatory diseases like Alzheimer's, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer. She co-founded and built the biotechnology company in 2000 as a spin-out of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL), and it now has 110 employees from 15 different countries. Mrs. Neubauer's company collaborates in strategic relationships with large pharmaceutical companies: Johnson&Johnson, Novartis, Bayer Health Care and GlaxoSmithKline. By discovering new drug candidates which target the molecular cause of a disease, Cellzome addresses pharmaceutical companies' need to better understand how diseases and their potential drugs work at the molecular level. This enables them to design new drugs in better and faster ways improving the quality of life for patients and helping them manage their disease.





Winner 2nd Prize of €50,000

Fabienne Hermitte, Co-founder IPSOGEN, Senior director, Research and Development – Regulatory Affairs

Her work made her company a pioneer in personalized healthcare diagnostics, which allow more individualized treatments for cancer patients

Fabienne Hermitte co-founded the oncology molecular diagnostic company IPSOGEN in Marseille in 1999. Since 2003, her company develops and commercializes diagnostic products based on fully validated biomarkers that enable oncologists to manage leukaemia and breast cancer. IPSOGEN is positioned to play an important role in the emerging field of personalized medicine and is at the moment considered to be the world leader in blood cancer molecular diagnostics. IPSOGEN has developed 15 biomarkers; the most widely used and innovative amongst them are those for breast cancer and leukaemia diagnosis. Mrs. Hermitte's company is also targeting other cancers with the aim of providing currently inaccessible diagnostic information in the future. In 2010, IPSOGEN sold its products to over 70 countries in Europe, North America, Middle-East and Asia-Pacific. These advanced diagnostics provide significant benefits to patients by improving standards of care and by optimising overall treatment costs.



Winner 3rd Prize of €25,000

Ilaria Rosso, Co-founder ELECTRO POWER SYSTEMS, Vice-President of IP Policy and Public Funding Programmes

Her company developed the first self-recharging hydrogen fuel cell system for backup power - a clean, renewable alternative to lead-acid batteries and diesel generators.

Ilaria Rosso co-founded the company Electro Power Systems in 2005, with its offices and manufacturing facility in Turin, Italy. Electro Power Systems develops, produces and commercializes highly innovative backup power systems based on hydrogen fuel cells. These green technology products propose an alternative to traditional backups and provide significant cost reductions and a more robust infrastructure. The target markets are telecommunication operators, secure communications network for police, smart grids, etc. Beginning with the European market, Electro Power Systems now has more than 600 installations in the EU as well as in Asia, Africa and the Americas and is growing fast. Her company's innovation helps cut down on fuel logistics, diesel refuelling or battery replacement costs. Their product offers a reliable backup infrastructure, significant savings and clean, renewable power anywhere in the world.