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1. Prize – Dr. rer. nat. Josef Schneider

"Laser and digitally changed printing systems"

The patented development by MAN Roland head of research Dr. Schneider represents a far-reaching structural innovation in the printing industry. His method of automatic forme cylinder sleeve printing in a self-contained imaging and de-imaging cycle saves unnecessary turnaround time, material costs and print plate disposal.

In the print industry, Dr. Josef Schneider has achieved a decisive breakthrough with a revolutionary new technique of digitally changing offset presses by means of a laser. The new "DICOweb" generation of printing machines presented by MAN Roland in May 2000 features an entirely new method of re-imaging the forme cylinder sleeve.

The innovation by Dr. Schneider, represents a far-reaching structural innovation in the printing industry. The digital imaging enables a self-contained workflow chain from the preliminary stage through to further processing. This reflects the trend towards short-term campaigns, increased target-group oriented marketing and customized products.

By awarding the first prize, the jury honors the ecological and economical progress represented by Dr. Josef Schneider's patented invention.

The product development DICOweb is the logical final step in the development work undertaken by Dr. Schneider. Already when he was working at the German Graphic Technology Research Association (FOGRA) he applied for a first patent in 1982 which essentially forms the basis of the product development DICOweb.

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In 1988 Dr. Schneider began working for MAN Roland, and headed the research and development division from 1993. Two years later a prototype of DICOweb could already be successfully presented at the DRUPA trade fair. A remarkable feature of this research work is the complex interplay of all the components involved in the innovative printing system. Many aspects of laser technology, process technology, chemicals, software and mechanical engineering had to be optimally tailored to each other to suit the new requirements.

Dr. rer. nat. Josef Schneider was born in Konnersreuth in the Upper Palatinate, Germany, in 1948, and gained his physics doctorate in 1980 at the Technical University of Munich. In 1981 he was awarded the Research Prize of the German Photography Association for his dissertation. He is not only an active researcher but also a lecturer, with lectureships at the Munich University of Applied Sciences and a guest professorship at the Academy of Arts in Berlin. Dr. Schneider is married, with a daughter and two sons.