

Media information

Nordhausen, May 16, 2024

Outstanding innovation and sustainability: Maximator Hydrogen honored with VORSPRUNG award

Ceremonial handover in the Chancellery by Minister of State Carsten Schneider



Patron Carsten Schneider, Minister of State and Federal Government Commissioner for Eastern Germany, presented the VORSPRUNG Award yesterday to Oliver Henle, CFO Chief Financial Officer, Jörg Hattenbach, COO Chief Operating Officer, and Mathias Kurras, CEO Chief Executive Officer, from Maximator Hydrogen (from left to right) Image: Deutschland – Land der Ideen/Bernd Brundert

Nordhausen, May 16, 2024. Maximator Hydrogen from Nordhausen is one of seven East German companies to receive the VORSPRUNG business award from the East German Business Forum OWF. Managing Directors Mathias Kurras, Jörg Hattenbach and Oliver Henle accepted the award yesterday from patron Carsten Schneider, Minister of State and Federal Government Commissioner for Eastern Germany, during the award ceremony at the Federal Chancellery in Berlin. The jury, chaired by Matthias Platzeck, former Minister President of the State of Brandenburg, selected Maximator Hydrogen from the nominees as an outstanding example of innovation and sustainability in Germany as a business location. With

this award, the Thuringian greentech company continues its successful series of innovation prizes. In addition, the North Thuringian manufacturer of hydrogen refueling stations was included in the ranks of Thuringia's "hidden champions".

Over the last three decades, eastern Germany has undergone significant change and produced numerous innovative concepts. In recognition and appreciation of this change, the VORSPRUNG business prize is awarded annually to outstanding entrepreneurial personalities. Carsten Schneider, Minister of State and Federal Government Commissioner for Eastern Germany, acts as patron of the prize and presented the award to seven outstanding East German companies – including Maximator Hydrogen. The company from Nordhausen has been on an expansion course since it was founded: in its third year of independence, it recently launched its third foreign partner company in the Benelux countries after the USA and France. With Europe's largest production facility for hydrogen refueling stations, Maximator Hydrogen is one of the big players when it comes to the mobility infrastructure of the future.

"We are incredibly grateful and happy about this award. Our entire team has done a fantastic job to get us closer to our goal of 4,000 compressor systems by 2030. My special thanks go to him in particular," says CEO Mathias Kurras.

All of the companies honored are characterized by their high level of innovation and sustainable growth and are thus exemplary for the transformation and future of the economy in eastern Germany and the entire federal territory. The companies were nominated by a committee consisting of business development agencies, investment and guarantee banks (development banks) and state representatives of the BDI in the eastern German states. An independent jury, consisting of representatives from politics, business, science and the business media, makes the decision on the award. One prize is awarded per federal state, and a special prize is also awarded to a start-up.

Maximator Hydrogen is a hidden champion

Thuringia is a world leader – with medium-sized companies that have achieved either market leadership or technology leadership through innovative products and services as well as leading technologies. Maximator Hydrogen is now one of these “hidden champions”.

The company from northern Thuringia is able to impress with its highly efficient and fast hydrogen refueling solution. The central component of this refueling system is the MAX Compression 2.0, a two-stage, hydraulically driven compressor concept. It incorporates the Automatic Seal Exchange (ASX), a patented solution for automatically changing the seals in the compressor, as these are exposed to particular stresses due to the high pressures. The Maximator Hydrogen systems can be modularly adapted to different filling stations, from small filling stations to those for heavy commercial vehicles.

“Thuringia is characterized by its diverse and powerful medium-sized companies – and we want to show what expertise and potential the Free State has to offer,” says LEG Managing Director Andreas Krey about the image campaign. Over 90 companies have already been evaluated as global market and technology leaders – Maximator Hydrogen is now one of them.

About the „Hidden Champions“

“Hidden Champions – Thuringia's world market and technology leaders” – this was the name of the new campaign launched by the Thuringia State Development Corporation in March 2023. As the state's business development agency, LEG Thüringen's task is to promote Thuringia as an investment location, attract investors to the state and actively support existing companies in their entrepreneurial activities. The campaign supports all of these goals, as it shows Thuringia's trump cards to the outside world and at the same time provides internal impetus for further success stories “made in Thuringia”.

Further awards for Maximator Hydrogen

With this award at the beginning of the year, Maximator Hydrogen GmbH is following on from the Innovation Award it received at the Thuringia Exhibition in February 2023, winning the Thuringia Innovation Award in November 2023 and being nominated

again for the top 10 companies at the Future Award of the Erfurt Chamber of Industry and Commerce and Chamber of Crafts in summer 2023.

Further information can be found at <https://www.maximator-hydrogen.de/>

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About Maximator Hydrogen

The Maximator Hydrogen GmbH from Nordhausen is a leading supplier and developer of comprehensive system solutions for the entire value chain of hydrogen technologies. With over 200 employees, the company combines unique expertise with the know-how of approximately 700 H₂-relevant patents. As a fast and efficient partner for the planning, construction and operation of hydrogen infrastructures for road, rail and marine transport, Maximator Hydrogen, a company of the Schmidt Kranz Group, offers highly reliable and modern hydrogen refueling stations from a single source. With its high performance, flexibility and speed, Maximator Hydrogen is a central partner for specifically tailored hydrogen solutions for large international companies and corporations.

About the OWF

The East German Economic Forum (OWF) is the most important platform for all topics relating to eastern Germany as a business location. The aim of the OWF is to work out the opportunities and challenges of the business location, to network players from business, politics and science and to develop solutions for the structural change and transformation processes that characterize the location. The OWF's annual business conference brings together thinkers and doers from business, politics, science and society to discuss the opportunities of transformation for the East German economy and to initiate sustainable change processes.

About the LEG Thuringia

Landesentwicklungsgesellschaft Thüringen mbH has been supporting the development of the Free State of Thuringia into an attractive business, investment and technology location since 1992. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Free State, it is a competent partner in all matters of economic development and real estate management with more than 250 employees.