

PRESS RELEASE

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*VCI Awards Winners of the Responsible Care Competition 2019*

## The Supply Chain as a Guideline for a Responsible Future

- Four projects for a sustainable supply chain were awarded with a prize
- Large-scale and medium-sized companies show an exemplary responsibility

A sustainable supply chain in the chemical industry does not come along with a certain company size. The winners of the national Responsible Care competition 2019 who were awarded with prizes by the Association of the Chemical Industry (VCI) in Berlin today proved this. Winner of the first prize was Lanxess AG in Cologne for its “ReeL project for a resource-efficient manufacture of leather chemicals at the customer”. Epple Druckfarben AG in Neusäß was awarded with the second prize for the development of a new “paint system for printing inks”. The third prize was awarded to DAW SE in Ober-Ramstadt for its “supplier code”. CHT Germany GmbH in Tübingen was awarded with the prize for medium-sized companies for its “information tool for a supplier rating”.

This year’s topic was “Our share for a sustainable supply chain”. The Responsible Care program is part of Chemie<sup>3</sup>, the sustainability initiative of the chemical industry. The jury of independent experts decided which winners of the federal VCI competitions would be awarded with national prizes. For the fifth time VCI honored a special company project with the prize for medium-sized companies. CHT Germany was awarded with this prize for the second time in a row.

The first-placed project of Lanxess AG for a **resource-efficient manufacture of leather chemicals (ReeL)** convinced the jury as an innovative business model preventing waste, protecting the environment and saving transports as well as costs. Lanxess developed a pilot plant which recycles residues of leather manufacture at the tanner or user producing thus retanning agents on site. Thus, the tanner can largely manufacture himself the chemicals he requires on the base of biological residues of his own leather manufacture. Lanxess is responsible for the chemical synthesis process. The ReeL pilot plant proved the feasibility of this concept. In cooperation with leading large tanneries, production plants which are eight times larger than the pilot plant are being planned in Europe.

Epple Druckfarben AG was awarded with the second prize for its **system of new printing inks** which can be applied on sheet-fed offset printing machines. These inks offer ecological benefits: Their binders are based on renewable resources; their printing processes work without potentially toxic metal driers, without photoinitiators as well as without mineral oil. Waste paper printed with these inks can be recycled up to six times achieving a very good fibre yield. The process additionally offers social benefits as no toxic substances are used, and the odour nuisance during printing and on the end product is reduced, too. The jury praised this project as it affects the core business of printing ink manufacturers.

The jury awarded DAW SE with the third prize for its development of an **in-house supplier code**. The code deals among others with the personnel policy (labor rights, health, safety, equal treatment), with environmental protection (respect of national laws, environmental management system) as well as with the business conduct (prohibition of corruption, avoiding of conflicts of interest). DAW considers a violation of this code as adverse effect on the contract. Within this supplier code DAW not only focuses on the suppliers' classification and rating but especially on a regular exchange about topics such as innovation, trends and sustainability. DAW impressed the jury with its broad, holistic approach to sustainability.

For the second time in a row CHT Germany GmbH was awarded with the prize for medium-sized companies. All over the world, the company combines a **supplier rating with sustainability criteria** with an **information tool for customers in the Consumer Care sector**. This kind of product pass refers to quality, chemical composition, product safety, certification and legal regulations. Customers can use this tool for rating the sustainability of their own products. In 2018, within the framework of the supplier rating, exactly 453 suppliers of the CHT Group were rated with 311 of them being considered as sustainable suppliers.

### **Background Information on the Competition**

The Responsible Care competition of the VCI always starts at federal level. This year, the federal associations submitted 57 projects. The winners of the federal competition automatically participate in the national competition.

A jury of seven independent experts decided on the national prizes. Dr. Winfried Horstmann, represented by Dr. Heinrich Lochte, German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy; Dr. Michael Reubold, editorial staff of CHEManager; Gertrud Sahler, German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear

Safety; Xaver Schmidt, Industrial Union for Mining, Chemicals and Energy; Prof. Dr. Ferdinand Schüth, Max Planck Institute for Carbon Research. The VCI was represented by Dr. Utz Tillmann, Managing Director, and by Dr. Gerd Romanowski, Director of Science, Technology and Environment.

A **picture** with the Responsible Care winners of 2019 can be downloaded as of 2 p.m. on the VCI website: [www.vci.de/pressefotos](http://www.vci.de/pressefotos)

A **video** showing the projects of the Responsible Care winners of 2019 can be found in YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Chemieverband>

*VCI represents the economic interests of about 1,700 German chemical companies and German subsidiaries of foreign company groups towards politics, authorities, other fields of the economy, science and the media. VCI stands for more than 90 per cent of German chemical companies. With a staff of approx. 462,500 people the chemical industry had a turnover of 203 billions of Euro in 2018.*

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