

Press release

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EFCE accolade goes to Christoph Held for groundbreaking research in Thermodynamics

A four-year PhD research project has beaten seven other nominations for the prestigious Excellence Award awarded every two years by the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) Working Party on Thermodynamics and Transport Properties.

Dr-Ing Christoph Held, 32, of the Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany, has been recognised for his thesis *Measuring and Modelling Thermodynamics Properties of Biological Solutions* which, on submission, received the highest possible grade of *summa cum laude* and has subsequently been published in nine peer-reviewed international journals.

The impact of this research is explained by Prof João A P Coutinho of University of Aveiro who recommended the nomination: "Excellent modelling work is seldom accompanied by experimental measurements of quality because seldom one finds a complete researcher that can excel in both domains." Dr Held's research has produced an important body of new data that will be eagerly used by future researchers in this field.

This research responds directly to the urgent need for evaluation of biological reactions, for understanding specific phenomena in biological systems e.g. pH dependence and salt influence as well as downstream processing in biotechnology.

The five-member evaluation panel comprising experts from both industry and academia, arrived unanimously at their decision, acknowledging the "truly novel results" within Dr Held's research. They also commended his collaborations with national and international scientific research groups, and further recognised the dedication to his 4-year PhD project during which he became a father not once but twice!

Dr Held will accept his award – a certificate and a cash prize of €1500 – at the *Thermodynamics 2013* conference which will take place 3-6 September 2013 in Manchester, UK.

Editor's Notes

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About chemical engineers

Chemical, biochemical and process engineering is the application of science, maths and economics to the process of turning raw materials into everyday products. Professional chemical engineers design, construct and manage process operations all over the world. Pharmaceuticals, food and drink, synthetic fibres and clean drinking water are just some of the products where chemical engineering plays a central role.

About EFCE

Founded in 1953, The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) is a non-profit-making association, whose object is to promote co-operation in Europe between non-profit-making professional scientific and technical societies in 30 countries for the general advancement of chemical engineering and as a means of furthering the development of chemical engineering. See www.efce.org