

Presentation of the Young Vision Award at TU Bergakademie Freiberg: Wintershall and Gazprom support young scientists

25. October 2016
Leila Inojatov
PI-16-12
Tel. +49 561 301-3301
Fax +49 561 301-1321
press@wintershall.com
www.wintershall.com

- **Expert jury selected the winners of the international Young Vision Award**
- **First prize goes to Maximilian Kaferstein and Christoph Bender for their work on smart Hydrocyclones**
- **Participation of Wintershall Board Member, Thilo Wieland, and Managing Director of Gazprom International, Andrej Fik, highlights the importance of the award**

Freiberg, 25 October 2016. Together with the TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Wintershall and Gazprom International conferred today the Young Vision Award to Maximilian Kaferstein and Christoph Bender. Their work addresses the quality improvement of mud cleaning operations by using smart hydrocyclones. The award has been bestowed by Wintershall and Gazprom International every year since 2013 and pays tribute to technological solutions in the field of oil and gas production that are particularly sustainable and efficient. The Young Vision Awards supports qualified young students from the oil and gas sector and fosters the exchange of ideas between Germany and Russia.

Students of German and Russian universities were able to enter their projects to the competition. After the selection of a short list, the finalists presented their work to a jury today. The experts evaluated the innovativeness, creativity, environmental compatibility

Wintershall Holding GmbH
Corporate Communications
P.O. Box 10 40 20
34112 Kassel, Germany

and effectiveness of the ideas as well as their commercial feasibility.

The winners can now look forward to a company internship and to the publication of their idea in a trade journal.

The jury is looking for innovative approaches

Jury member Valerie Bosse, Vice President Global Exploration and New Ventures at Wintershall, was pleased with the high quality of the entries: "I was very excited to see the wealth of ideas and creative approaches of the young researchers. We need innovation and we must invest in research to be successful internationally. We are very happy and proud that we can provide an important impetus to encourage and support young visionaries with this award."

Dr. Valerii Cholovskii, Technical Director at Gazprom International, emphasized this approach: "These budding young scientists have a fresh new perspective on the industry and are willing to try out unusual solutions. Combining these innovative ideas with our long-term expertise is a promising recipe. Some award-winners have already been able to put their ideas into practice."

The importance that the companies attach to the Young Vision Award was illustrated by the presence of Executive Board members from both companies. Thilo Wieland, the Wintershall Executive Board member responsible for the activities in Russia, Argentina and North Africa, believes that one of the most important tasks is to recruit the next generation for the oil and gas industry: "Only with the smartest heads will we be able to meet future challenges. We are making a contribution to achieving this with the Young Vision Award." Andrej Fik, Managing Director of Gazprom International, also travelled from Russia to the final of the Young Vision Awards.

Wintershall Holding GmbH, based in Kassel, Germany, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BASF in Ludwigshafen. The company has been active in the extraction of natural resources for 120 years, and in the exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas for over 85 years. Wintershall focuses on selected core regions where the company has built up a high level of regional and technological expertise. These are Europe, Russia, North Africa, South America, and increasingly the Middle East region. The company wants to expand its business further with exploration and production, selected partnerships, innovation and technological competence. Wintershall employs about 2.000 staff worldwide from 50 nations and is now Germany's largest, internationally active crude oil and natural gas producer.

Wintershall. Shaping the future.

More information on the Internet at <http://www.wintershall.com> or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).