

Press release

EWM sponsors a pioneering project for welding technology

EWM Award for Augmented Reality Assistance System for Welding

Combining augmented reality with the real welding process – this was the idea that Alexander Atzberger used to convince the expert jury of the German Welding Society (DVS) – and EWM AG. The EWM “Physics of Welding Award” was given to a project by the young scientist from Munich at the opening ceremony of SCHWEISSEN & SCHNEIDEN, the world’s leading trade show for welding and cutting. The company promotes the idea and its realisation with its comprehensive know-how as Germany’s largest welding technology manufacturer and a prize of €30,000.

In collaboration with the DVS, EWM called for entries to the contest for the Innovative Approaches Award in welding technology for the fifth time already. This year, Alexander Atzberger is thrilled to receive support for his pioneering project: The 27-year-old junior researcher of the Bundeswehr University Munich plans to make the knowledge transfer in welding easier through his research project. The approach is to exchange movements and process parameters in welding through an augmented reality environment between two users anywhere in the world and in real time. The technology could then be used in many cases in practice: These also include, besides occupational and advanced training, the analysis and optimisation of the welding process with the customers. “Our aim is to record welding in the most realistic way possible and represent the insights in the most precise and simple way possible – like in an assistance system,” explains Alexander Atzberger. “By winning the award and cooperating with EWM, we can benefit from the know-how of one of the most important arc welding technology manufacturers. In combination

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with the prize money, this makes implementing the project simpler and boosts the chances of success significantly.”

Pioneering research approach

Alexander Atzberger’s idea quickly convinced the independent expert jury because of its viability for the future. “It is important for our industry’s future that we continuously develop the efficiency of our processes further and at the same time, also consider digital change,” explains Michael Szczesny, Vice Chairman of the Board at EWM AG. “The idea of this year’s prize winner to combine the topic of augmented reality with the real welding process aims exactly at this. It is another step into the digital world of tomorrow. As a future-oriented company and technology driver in the field of Industry 4.0, we are happy to support the project with our know-how and the EWM Award.”

Dr.-Ing. Roland Boecking, Chairman of the German Welding Association (DVS), was also impressed by Alexander Atzberger’s research project: “We support the next generation of joining technology experts and their ideas in a number of ways and Industry 4.0 defines the work within our association, of course. I am, therefore, very happy when promising ideas such as this research project are drafted by young people. Mr. Atzberger picks up on a relevant topic that is particularly useful to our DVS-approved educational institutions in training and instruction. Sharing welding knowledge and information around the world – the world of joining technology lives from ideas like this one.”

Prof Dr.-Ing. Michael Rethmeier of the Federal Institute for Material Research and Testing (BAM) recognised the future-oriented approach of the young scientist during the laudation: “Alexander Atzberger’s idea combines welding technology with state-of-the-art technologies and opens up entirely new possibilities to welders around the world. For many years it has been EWM’s approach to already think today about the solutions of tomorrow and promote

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their development. This modern orientation makes lasting contributions to the positive future of our industry.”

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Fig. 1: Alexander Atzberger (XY. from the left) is pleased about winning the EWM Award.

Photo caption

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/ About EWM:

EWM AG is Germany's largest manufacturer of arc welding equipment and one of the most important suppliers of this technology worldwide. The family-run company offers a complete system product range for first-class welding. Be it welding machines, welding torches, filler materials or welding accessories for manual and automated applications – EWM offers it all from one source. The company takes the technological responsibility for the entire welding process. Customers profit additionally from a comprehensive service offer. This also includes the innovation and technology consulting service “ewm maXsolution”. EWM has a strong global presence with approximately 600 employees based at twelve German and seven international locations, supported by more than 400 sales and service outlets worldwide.

Thanks to numerous highly innovative developments of product and welding procedures, EWM is recognised as one of the central technology drivers by the industry and users. EWM introduces the added value of Industry 4.0 to welding production with intelligently interconnected and productivity-raising solutions. The company's passion for welding is firmly embedded in its guiding principle WE ARE WELDING. Together with the BlueEvolution sustainability initiative, the claim of fulfilling the specific customer needs in the optimal way is emphasised – while always considering efficiency and ecology. Users benefit from energy-saving welding processes, considerably lower use of raw materials, reduced emissions and overall shorter production times. In result, this leads to significant savings of cost and resources. Our customers thereby raise their competitiveness and protect the environment at the same time.

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About DVS:

The German Welding Society (DVS) is a technical-scientific society which, encompassing 120 years of experience, is dedicated to the more than 250 different processes for joining, cutting and surfacing. The heart of all DVS activities is the joint technical-scientific work. It stands for the persistently close interlinking of contents and results from the fields of research, technology and education. The affiliated companies of DVS process the results from the society and present them to the outside with their own main focal points. The head office of the society recognised as non-profit-making is in Düsseldorf. The all of 19,000 members are looked after directly in situ by the 14 DVS state branches and the 75 DVS district branches. The society unites people and companies from industry, commerce, skilled trades and science; the youngsters concerned with joining technology as well as experts with many years of professional experience; scientists, practitioners, manufacturers and users. Together, all the members of the society are committed to joining technology suitable for the future in every respect.

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