

Innovators' Meeting in virtual space

Endress+Hauser honors the Group's inventors

More than 500 inventors gathered virtually for Endress+Hauser's 21st Innovators' Meeting. Because last year's anniversary event had to be canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, two innovator cohorts were invited in 2021 to honor the creativity and inventive spirit of the Group of companies.

Endress+Hauser filed 276 new developments for patent for the first time in 2020, 42 less than the previous year. Nevertheless, the overall balance is impressive: The number of patents granted worldwide reached a new high of 738, which is 61 more than in 2019. The intellectual property portfolio is also more extensive than ever. More than 8,900 patents and patent applications protect the intellectual property behind Endress+Hauser's products, solutions and services.

Innovation as a success factor

"The fact that all this was achieved during the coronavirus pandemic, despite particular strain and additional tasks, is a huge achievement," underlined Angelika Andres, Corporate Director of Intellectual Property Rights and head of the Group's intellectual property division. Department head Dr Christine Koslowski added: "There was tinkering and testing with and without masks, while working from home and in the workshop, with team spirit and digital tools."

"Innovations drive Endress+Hauser's growth," emphasized CEO Matthias Altendorf. If nothing else, digital tools helped bridge the physical distance during the pandemic, he said. "But people need other people." Virtual exchange cannot replace face-to-face encounters in the long run; relationships and trust are only built through direct contact. That's why the CEO is convinced that "cooperation, collaboration and creativity need physical proximity."

Progress in many areas

For 20 years, Endress+Hauser has been promoting the protection of intellectual property with its Patent Rights Incentive Program. In this context, the annual Innovators' Meeting offers the global Group's inventors a platform for meeting and exchanging ideas. Economically significant patents and particularly creative inventors are awarded prizes. Around 50 employees stood virtually on the winners' podium for this event.

"At its heart, innovation is always about customer benefit," explained Chief Operating Officer Dr Andreas Mayr. This benefit can be created by new products and technologies, but also by smoother cooperation or accelerated development projects. For this reason, Endress+Hauser has also been presenting awards for the improvement of processes and the reuse of previously developed solutions for a number of years. Dozens of employees were honored for this at the 2021 Innovators' Meeting.



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Inventive spirit: Endress+Hauser's 2021 Innovators' Meeting took place virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.



EH_2020_innovators_meeting_2

Growth driver: CEO Matthias Altendorf presents a multi-sensor system for monitoring fermentation processes at the 2021 Innovators' Meeting.

The Endress+Hauser Group

Endress+Hauser is a global leader in measurement and automation technology for process and laboratory applications. The family company, headquartered in Reinach, Switzerland, achieved net sales of approximately 2.6 billion euros in 2020 with a total workforce of more than 14,000.

Endress+Hauser devices, solutions and services are at home in many industries. Customers thus use them to gain valuable knowledge from their applications. This enables them to improve their products, work economically and at the same time protect people and the environment.

Endress+Hauser is a reliable partner worldwide. Its own sales companies in 50 countries as well as representatives in another 70 countries ensure competent support. Production facilities on four continents manufacture quickly and flexibly to the highest quality standards.

Endress+Hauser was founded in 1953 by Georg H Endress and Ludwig Hauser. Ever since, the company has been pushing ahead with the development and use of innovative technologies, now helping to shape the industry's digital transformation. 8,900 patents and applications protect the Group's intellectual property.

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Contact

Martin Raab
Group Media Spokesperson
Endress+Hauser AG
Kägenstrasse 2
4153 Reinach BL
Switzerland

Email martin.raab@endress.com
Phone +41 61 715 7722
Fax +41 61 715 2888