

## PRESS RELEASE: Plasmait Wins Enquete 2008 Award for Innovation

**Vienna 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008:** Austrian Cooperation Research (ACR) held its third *Enquete 2008* award ceremony in Vienna. ACR promotes research cooperation between Austrian small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) and non-university research institutions. This year's innovation awards went to three projects. The prizes were funded in association with the Federal Ministry for Industry and Work in Austria (Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit – BMWA).

Plasmait GmbH was presented with the innovation award for its research project, which was conducted in collaboration with the institute Zentrum für Elektronenmikroskopie Graz (ZFE). The project investigated plasma coating on ceramic materials with the purpose of process optimisation in industrial plasma heat and surface treatment applications.

This is Plasmait's second innovation in the last two years. In September 2007 Plasmait won the Fast Forward Innovation Award, which Styrian Development Agency (SFG) awarded to Plasmait for its environmentally friendly heat and surface treatment process for endless non-ferrous materials.



Photo from ACR Award Ceremony. From left to right: Prof. Ferdinand Hofer (Zentrum für Elektronenmikroskopie Graz), Heinz Schmidt (Plasmait GmbH), DI Martin Leitl (ACR President), STS Christine Marek (State Secretary BMWA), Herbert Kraiger (Plasmait GmbH), Ing. Hartmuth Schröttner (Zentrum für Elektronenmikroskopie Graz), Primoz Eiselt (Plasmait GmbH)

This was the third year ACR ran the Award competition. The purpose of the competition is to promote, encourage and facilitate cooperation between small and medium size companies and research institutions in Austria.

At the award ceremony, Dr. Johann Jäger, the President of ACR, emphasized the importance of cooperative research to small and medium sized enterprises (SME) by saying "Especially in applied research, it is the SMEs that benefit the most from incentives that encourage their cooperation with research institutions. We are therefore committed to give this area close attention in future."

Primoz Eiselt, Plasmait's Managing Director, praised the research team for their successful completion of the project and stressed the importance of the project to the company and its future development. Primoz recognised the benefits of cooperative research buy saying "The project gave Plasmait the opportunity to work with ZFE's experts in area of electron-microscopy and utilize the institution's resources to explore specific area in plasma process. Small and medium size companies cannot match R&D budgets of large corporations and instead have to join the forces with the research institution to get access to equipment, know-how, skills and resources, which would otherwise be beyond their reach." Primoz praises and celebrates the support offered from organisations such as AWS, SFG and ACR, who continuously support and facilitate such cooperation in the region of Styria and Austria as a whole.



Plasmait is a supplier of heat and surface treatment solutions for wire, cable, tube and strip industry. Plasmait's solutions are based on a patented plasma treatment process that offers great advances in production efficiency, surface quality and process ecology.

The company's head office and its production facility are located in Lebring, Austria. Next to it is a development and trial facility, which is used for process development and specific client trials. Plasmait provides heat and surface treatment solutions as individual machines or as turn-key production line deployments.



ACR, the association of cooperative research organisations, was founded in 1954. Since then ACR has played an important role in the Austrian innovation system. It provides an important platform for applied non-university research, development and innovation and assists mainly small and medium sized enterprises.

ACR acts as an intermediary between non-university research organisations and small and medium size companies to facilitate innovation in the industry. The organisation provides a cost-intensive scientific and technical infrastructure and assists in technology transfer between the research institution and SMEs.

Currently, ACR has 17 full members. In 2007, they had a total of 555 full time equivalent employees and produced a turnover of 54,7 million Euro, of which 86,3% with SME.

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