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## OE-A at LOPEC 2024: Winners of the OE-A Competition and Start-up Competition

**The demand for sustainable product ideas has grown significantly, as this year's OE-A Competition clearly shows. The winners of the annual flexible and printed electronics competition and the "LOPEC Start-Up Competition" were announced at LOPEC 2024.**

Frankfurt, March 19, 2024: The range of submissions in this OE-A Competition 2024 was wide: From energy-autonomous sensors for tires to muscle sensors for exoskeletons to a fully printed flexible printed circuit board. Companies and institutes from all over the world submitted their latest visions and products in the field of flexible, organic and printed electronics for the OE-A Competition 2024, organized annually by the Organic and Printed Electronics Association (OE-A), a working group within VDMA. The top four entries were awarded at LOPEC 2024, the international exhibition and conference for flexible, organic and printed electronics, March 3-5, in Munich, Germany.

The jury, consisting of representatives from international companies and institutes, evaluated 16 entries in three categories. LOPEC attendees were also able to vote. At the OE-A booth, where all the demonstrators were on display, visitors were encouraged to vote for their favorite product in the category "Public Choice Award".

The competition challenges the printed electronics industry each year to bring their newest and most promising ideas and products. This year's OE-A competition featured various cutting-edge products with a strong link to sustainability. "The OE-A Competition is a great opportunity to present fresh ideas to an international audience," said Dr. Klaus Hecker, Managing Director of the OE-A. "We see a strong drive to

improve the sustainability of printed electronics further by developing new materials, and processes", Klaus Hecker continued.

The awards were officially handed over during the LOPEC Award Show to the following winners:

**Best Prototype and New Product**

Period-after-opening time tracker

[FLEEP Technologies](#), IT

**Best Freestyle Demonstrator**

Integrated de-icing system for wind turbine blades

[Tekniker](#), ES

**Best Publicly Funded Project**

Energy autonomous sensor system for smart tires

[JOANNEUM RESEARCH](#), AT

**Public Choice Award**

3D HMI Automotive

[EURECAT](#), ES

**Fostering young talents**

In addition to the established competition, Henkel AG & Co. KGaA and the OE-A Working Group Education have for the first time launched the "Student Open Innovation Challenge" for graduate and undergraduate students. To bring their ideas to life, the students were provided with the Henkel Sensor Kit, which includes 4 types of printed sensors. "There is a lot of talent at the universities. The winner's project makes a direct contribution to the issue of caregiving and to easing the burden on caregivers," explained Klaus Hecker.

**Student Open Innovation Challenge**

Patient Monitoring System

[Loughborough University](#), UK

**Save the date April 25 – Web-Seminar**

Mark your calendar for the Web-Seminar "Printed Electronics Insights: OE-A Competition 2024 – The Winners" on April 25, 15:30 h CEST. The winners of each category will present their projects online to the community and all those who are interested in the further development of printed electronics.

## **LOPEC Start-up Competition 2024**

As part of the LOPEC Business Conference, the OE-A supports young companies and Start-ups with the Start-up Competition. "The aim of the Start-up Competition is to bring together partners and investors with young entrepreneurs to support the realization of their business. LOPEC fosters young companies with the opportunity to give a pitch in the Forum and to exhibit in the dedicated Start-up area", explains Wolfgang Mildner, General Chair of LOPEC. Two awards were presented:

## **LOPEC Start-up Competition 2024**

### **Best Business Case**

Smart window foil to protect buildings from unwanted solar heat  
[AMPERIAL Technologies](#), DE

### **Most Impactful Technology/Product**

Biofuel Cells – Batteries made sustainable  
[BeFC Bioenzymatic Fuel Cells](#), FR

## **Prepare for OE-A Competition 2025**

The OE-A Competition 2025 will be launched in June. The competition contributions will be showcased at the OE-A booth during the next LOPEC, which will take place in Munich on February 25-27, 2025. More information about the OE-A Competition can be found on [oe-a.org](https://oe-a.org).

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**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Klaus Hecker, OE-A Managing Director, phone: +49 69 66 03-13 36, e-mail: [klaus.hecker@oe-a.org](mailto:klaus.hecker@oe-a.org)**



**Proud winners of the OE-A Competition and LOPEC Start-up Competition 2024.** © Messe München

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#### **Organic and Printed Electronics Association**

The OE-A (Organic and Printed Electronics Association) is the leading international industry association for flexible, organic, and printed electronics. The OE-A represents the entire value chain of this emerging industry. Our members are world-class global companies and institutions, ranging from R&D institutes, mechanical engineering companies and material suppliers to producers and end-users.

Well over 200 companies from Europe, Asia, North America, and Africa are working together to promote the establishment of a competitive production infrastructure for organic and printed electronics.

The vision of the OE-A is to build a bridge between science, technology, and application. The OE-A is a working group within VDMA. More than 3,600 member companies from the engineering industry make VDMA the largest industry association in Europe.

<https://www.oe-a.org>

#### **Flexible, organic, and printed electronics**

Organic and printed electronics stands for a revolutionary new type of electronics: they are thin, lightweight, flexible, robust, and produced at low cost. It enables new applications, including single-use devices enabling ubiquitous electronics.

#### **LOPEC**

The OE-A and Messe München are the hosts of LOPEC, the premier international exhibition and conference for the printed electronics industry. It addresses end-users, engineers, scientists, manufacturers, and investors. LOPEC 2025 will be held February 25-27, 2025. [www.lopec.com](http://www.lopec.com)