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Innovative ideas in printed electronics honored: Winners of the OE-A and LOPEC Start-Up Competitions 2026

The winners of the OE-A Competition and the LOPEC Start-Up Competition were honored at LOPEC 2026. This year, the focus was on smart solutions for industry and the healthcare market.

Frankfurt, March 09, 2026: At LOPEC 2026, the spotlight was on the products and projects entered in the OE-A Competition and Start-Up Competition. Fifteen ideas and products from seven countries competed in the OE-A Competition, with the best in each category receiving awards at the LOPEC Award Show.

“This year, we saw a significant increase in submissions for the areas of industry safety and healthcare. The products are impressive due to their market readiness,” says Dr. Klaus Hecker, Managing Director of the OE-A, the international working group for flexible and printed electronics within the VDMA and partner of LOPEC. LOPEC is the world's leading exhibition and conference for printed electronics, bringing together industry, research, and end-users every year.

A jury of international experts evaluated the submissions in three categories. Visitors to LOPEC were also able to vote at the OE-A booth, they selected their favorite innovation for the “Public Choice Award.” The competition motivates the industry to present its latest innovations every year. At the LOPEC Award Show ceremony, the winners received their awards.

The winners of the OE-A Competition 2026

- **Best Prototype and New Product**
[Leakage Detection System for Industrial Plants](#) - Flexoo, Germany
- **Best Freestyle Demonstrator**
[MiniLED Monochrome Display](#) - TracXon, The Netherlands
- **Best Publicly Funded Project Demonstrator**
[Smart Sensing System for Diabetic Foot Ulcer Care](#) - Hochschule Niederrhein-
University of Applied Studies, Germany
- **Public Choice Award**
[Printed Headrest Loudspeaker](#)
CeNTI - Centre for Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials, Portugal

Further information and photos of all competition entries can be found on the OE-A website:
<https://oe-a.org/oe-a-competition-2026>.

OE-A Web Seminar “OE-A Competition 2026 - The Winners” on April 16

The web seminar “Printed Electronics Insights: OE-A Competition 2026 – The Winners” will take place on April 16 at 3:30 p.m. The winners of the various categories will present their projects there. The web seminar offers the community a compact opportunity to learn about the award-winning projects firsthand. The event is aimed at the printed electronics community and anyone else who is interested.

New opportunities for founders: The LOPEC Start-up Competition

As part of the LOPEC Business Conference, the OE-A supports up-and-coming start-ups with its “Start-up Competition.” “The aim of the Start-up Competition is to bring young entrepreneurs together with partners and investors. These contacts help founders to further develop their business ideas in a targeted manner. LOPEC offers young companies the opportunity to present their ideas at the forum and highlight their innovations in a special start-up area,” explains Dr. John Fahlteich, Chair of the LOPEC Start-up Competition.

Two awards were presented:

LOPEC Start-up Competition 2026

Best Business Case

Jörg Dickerboom, Kronos Mechatronics GmbH, Germany

“Printing the Future in Every Dimension”

Most Impactful Technology

Dr. Erik Khranovskyy, GRAFREN AB, Sweden

"New Generation of E-Textiles Enabled by Ordered Placement of Two-Dimensional Nanocrystals on the Surface of Individual Fibers".

As a special recognition, both winners will receive a start-up booth at LOPEC 2027.

OE-A Competition 2027 starts in June

The OE-A Competition 2027 will open in June 2026. The competition entries will then be on display again at the next LOPEC from March 2 to 4, 2027, in Munich at the OE-A booth. For more information about the OE-A Competition, please visit oe-a.org.

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



Happy faces of the winners of the OE-A Competition and LOPEC Start-up Competition 2026.

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OE-A - Advancing the flexible and printed electronics industry

The OE-A was founded in December 2004 and 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. 180 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. 3,500 member companies from the engineering industry make VDMA the largest industry association in Europe. oe-a.org

Flexible and printed electronics

Flexible, 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 2027 will be held March 02 to 04, 2027 at Messe München, Germany. lopec.com