UNIDO Global Call 2021 Winners Awarded in Remscheid

The winners of the UNIDO Global Call for Innovative Solutions in Cleantech and Sustainable Land Management were awarded in a hybrid award ceremony in Remscheid’s Teo Otto Theater on the 26th of October. The ceremony was attended by more than 160 cleantech innovators, investors, and stakeholders alongside delegates from various United Nations organizations and NGOs. In addition, the event was live streamed.

Nearly 300 applicants from over 70 countries

The call, initiated by the UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPO) Germany in close collaboration with Future Cleantech Architects, was launched in July of this year with the goal of finding outstanding technological private-sector solutions to the biggest climate challenges in four categories. Close to 300 applications from over 70 countries were pre-selected by the organizers and then evaluated by an expert jury who finally selected the four winners. After opening words by North-Rhine Westphalia’s Minister of Economic Affairs, Innovation, Digitalization, and Energy Andreas Pinkwart and UNIDO Managing Director Bernado Calzadilla-Sarmiento, speakers from collaborators of the call UNCCD and UNFCCC along with experts from UNIDO provided insight on the significance of each of the categories and the importance of technological solutions to address the adverse effects of climate change and reduce existing emissions levels.

Winning projects came from Canada, China, and Germany

In the category “decarbonizing growing urban environments”, the Canadian synthetic modelling company RUNWITHIT Synthetics Inc. won first place for their advanced simulations that allow stakeholders to innovate, optimize, and decarbonize mobility in growing cities. German innovators betteries AMPS GmbH took home the prize in the category “clean energy generation and storage” with their modular, mobile, multi-purpose, and connected second-life battery system. First place of the third category, “circular production and industrial processes”, went to PolyCare Research Technology GmbH & Co. KG, a German company producing sustainable building blocks made from durable
and environmentally friendly polymer concrete. Finally, Zhejiang Chint New Energy Development Co., Ltd. were named the winners of the category “sustainable land management” for their cutting edge agrovoltaics systems. The award winning companies have been invited to present their solutions to an international expert audience at the COP 26 in Glasgow by the organizers of the call.

Vanessa Voelkel, Deputy Head of UNIDO ITPO Germany and co-moderator of the evening, commented that “the Global Call showed us how multifaceted private sector solutions to address the adverse effects of climate change can be. It was a pleasure to present the four most convincing solutions in cleantech and sustainable land management to the world today”. The award ceremony was flanked by two panel discussions, one on breakthrough innovation and one on decarbonizing heavy industry, that allowed attending guests of the ceremony to discuss the most pressing climate challenges and their solutions in smaller groups before the main event. Founder and CEO of FCA and the evenings second moderator, Dr Peter Schniering, was “particularly pleased to see so many stakeholders on climate innovation come together and develop ideas on how we can push the cleantech agenda harder”.

Further Reading / Links / Resources
UNIDO Website
https://www.unido.org/global-call-itspos
Watch the award ceremony here
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MG87qeTb5E&t=2709s
Future Cleantech Architects
https://fcarchitects.org