

Media Release

Clariant's Head of Oxidation Catalysts wins prestigious EFCATS Catalysis Award

- **Gerhard Mestl, Head of Oxidation Catalysts, was awarded for his pioneering work in applied selective oxidation**
- **New high-performance process catalysts allow efficient, sustainable production of intermediate and specialty chemicals**
- **Innovative solutions greatly enhance the conservation of energy and resources in the chemicals market**

Munich, September 13, 2017 – Clariant, a world leader in specialty chemicals, is pleased to announce that Gerhard Mestl, Head of Oxidation Catalysts at Clariant, has received the 2017 Applied Catalysis Award from the European Federation of Catalysis Societies (EFCATS). The award was presented to Gerhard Mestl on Wednesday, 30th August at the EuropaCat XIII conference in Florence, Italy.

The recipient of the EFCATS Applied Catalysis Award is selected by a jury of prominent scientists. According to the organization, the Award aims to acknowledge “individual contributions, which demonstrate excellence, scientific novelty, technical achievements in development and scale-up, interdisciplinary teamwork between scientists and engineers, and clearly show emphasis on actual or potential commercial application”. The Applied Catalysis Award is sponsored by the multinational petroleum company BP.

The prestigious biennial Award was granted to Gerhard Mestl for his groundbreaking work in selective oxidation. Together with his R&D team at Clariant, Gerhard Mestl has succeeded in developing high-performance process catalysts that significantly enhance efficiency and sustainability in the production of intermediate and specialty chemicals, such as phthalic anhydride (PHTHALIMAX[®]), maleic anhydride (SynDane[®]) and vinyl-acetate monomer (VAMax[®]).

Gerhard Mestl is a leading researcher at MuniCat, the Munich catalysis alliance between Clariant and the Technical University of Munich. His numerous professional achievements include developing and expanding the phthalic anhydride coating method to other applied catalyst systems, introducing a step-change in the bismuth-molybdate-based oxidation of propene to acrolein, and creating highly innovative maleic anhydride catalysts. He has played a key role in advancing an adaptable technology used in one-step conversion of propane to acrylic acid. Gerhard Mestl and his team are now also investigating solutions for catalytic oxidative dehydrogenation of ethane to ethylene.

Prof. Robert Schloegl, Director at the Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, stated, “Gerhard unites academic interest and curiosity with the practical sense and perseverance needed in industrial catalysis research. This, together with high social competence and a friendly personal attitude has made him an exceptionally successful leader in his field. Gerhard over and above cares for his colleagues, he engages in community service, both in the industry and in academia, and he still finds time to disseminate his insights in lectures to university students. I wish him all the joy coming with such a prestigious award.”

Marvin Estenfelder, Head of R&D at Clariant’s Catalysts Business Unit, also offered his congratulations: “The EFCATS Award is well-deserved recognition for the valuable contribution of Gerhard and his team to a number of exceptional innovations.”

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Clariant is a globally leading specialty chemicals company, based in Muttenz near Basel/Switzerland. On 31 December 2016 the company employed a total workforce of 17 442. In the financial year 2016, Clariant recorded sales of CHF 5.847 billion for its continuing businesses. The company reports in four business areas: Care Chemicals, Catalysis, Natural Resources, and Plastics & Coatings. Clariant’s corporate strategy is based on five pillars: focus on innovation through R&D, add value with sustainability, reposition portfolio, intensify growth, and increase profitability.

www.clariant.com/catalysts

Clariant’s Catalysts business unit is a leading global developer and producer of catalysts for industrial processes. It has been part of the Catalysis business area of the Clariant Group since the acquisition of Süd-Chemie in 2011. Clariant Catalysts is headquartered in Munich, Germany, and has a total of 16 production sites, 15 sales offices, and 11 R&D and technical centers around the world. Approximately 1 550 employees serve customers across all regional markets. Aimed at delivering sustainable value to customers, Clariant’s catalysts and adsorbents are designed to increase production throughput, lower energy consumption, and reduce hazardous emissions from industrial processes. The broad portfolio also includes products that enable the use of alternative feedstock for chemical and fuel production.