SWARCO Indusferica Talent Award 2024/25: Spotlight on Innovation

A forward-looking idea for the solar industry

The SWARCO Indusferica Talent Award (SITA) 2024/25 marks the launch of a new competition designed to recognize innovative ideas and pioneering projects. SITA is aimed at emerging talent seeking to rethink and advance the diverse applications of glass beads.

Increasing efficiency with reflective glass beads

Amstetten, March 2025 – The first recipient of the SITA 2024/25 award is Cornelia Marchfelder, who presented a concept focused on the targeted use of reflective glass beads in sublayer coatings to significantly increase the efficiency of bifacial photovoltaic systems. These modules not only generate energy from direct sunlight but also from light reflected onto the back of the module – a previously untapped potential that Marchfelder now brings into play.

By integrating glass beads capable of reflecting up to 95% of light, the rear-side energy yield is maximized. This could lead to up to 30% higher output compared to conventional PV modules. At the same time, the durable beads protect the coatings from mechanical wear and UV radiation. In a time where sustainable energy is more important than ever, this approach could help shape the future of the solar industry.

Voices from SWARCO leadership

Thomas Auinger, Head of Indusferica, was impressed: "This submission is a remarkable example of how glass beads can push boundaries and enable innovative solutions for sustainable technologies." Peter Tomazic, Vice President Road Marking Systems Region Europe, also underlined the idea's relevance: "The concept combines the strengths of our glass beads with the demands of modern solar technology, creating real added value for our customers."

Through the SITA Award, SWARCO Indusferica aims to annually honor pioneers and creative minds who contribute to the development of new glass bead technologies. Cornelia Marchfelder's success demonstrates just how much innovation potential lies in this field – and that SWARCO Indusferica is ready to break new ground.

About SWARCO Indusferica

SWARCO Indusferica is part of the international SWARCO Group and harnesses the universal benefits of glass beads for industrial specialty applications. What began in 1969 with small reflective beads for road markings has grown into one of the world's leading producers of micro glass beads, with manufacturing facilities in Europe and the USA.

Micro glass beads are used as high-quality fillers in industrial applications and as blasting media for surface treatments. In traffic technology, glass beads embedded in marking materials reflect headlight beams, ensuring that road markings remain visible – especially at night, thereby enhancing traffic safety.

The Better Way. Every Day.

For more information visit: http://www.swarco-indusferica.com

Press contact:

SWARCO Indusferica Lisa Steinegger Marketing Specialist Tel.: +43 664 889 997 57 E-Mail: <u>lisa.steinegger@swarco.com</u>

Image caption:



Driving innovation (from left to right): Lisa Steinegger (Marketing Specialist, SWARCO Indusferica), SITA award winner Cornelia Marchfelder and Peter Tomazic (Vice President Road Marking Systems Region Europe) at the award ceremony of the first SITA 2024/25.