

The fascination of foundries

German foundry chemical products manufacturer Hüttenes-Albertus Chemische Werke, winner of the SME category, also emerged as a strong contender for the overall prize this year with its submission on the installation of foundries in schools. The Get-In-Form scheme which involves partnering with a number of stakeholders and teachers in particular, supports core subjects and was described by the judges as “an excellent, outstanding initiative to engage with schools.”

The project has its roots in a school project week back in 2002, when the first permanent foundry was built in a secondary school to support the teaching of chemistry, specifically the processing of metal and alloys.

Two crucial elements in moving the project forward were the involvement and cooperation of school teachers, together with development of an alternative to expensive electric melting furnaces. Project activists worked on development and manufacture of a simple melting furnace, safe for use in schools and inexpensive. Planet4, an agency specializing in technical projects, helped promote the scheme at trade fairs and secured additional support from other companies in the foundry sector.

Get-in-Form has lent its name to a website www.get-in-form.de which offers information to anyone wanting to develop a school foundry, including how to get the equipment needed, and how a school foundry fits into the curriculum. The judges commended the project for its “open sharing of experience and information” on a global basis.

Hüttenes-Albertus and its partners in the project describe Get-in-Form as “a service to the community”, citing the focus on providing support for maths, information technology, natural science, and technology.

At regional level, the project won the Responsible Care award in Northern Germany. Hüttenes-Albertus is now taking steps to establish learning materials in cooperation with the Engineering teaching centre at Hannover University. “The project... is an affirmation of our goal, that statutory corporations, business organisations and trade unions in 2009 formed an ‘offensive for qualification’ in Germany”, the company notes.

Special commendations

The judges, impressed by many of the entries as demonstrating best practice in their specific areas of expertise, specially commended the following companies:

- Shell for “Transport Safety Innovation”
- Sabic for “Health & Safety Performance”
- Huntsman for “Biodiversity”
- Lamberti for “Use of Renewable Materials & Green Chemistry”
- Multisol Group for “Responsible Care in Distribution”

Close up experience of the chemistry of metal processing



Simple and safe: a melting furnace for schools



A demonstration of ‘outstanding engagement’

