



## DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award 2019

The deadline for award submissions is  
10 September 2019

February 4, 2019  
For Immediate Release

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative (DNFI) was created in January 2010 as an outgrowth of the International Year of Natural Fibres 2009, declared by the United Nations General Assembly. DNFI is a voluntary association of individuals and organizations who work to further the interests of natural fibres by serving as a platform for information exchange, including statistics on fibre production and use, and by working to raise awareness of the benefits of natural fibre industries to the world economy, environment and consumers ([www.dnfi.org](http://www.dnfi.org)). Anyone with an interest in natural fibres is welcome to join DNFI by registering on the web site.

The 2017 DNFI Annual Innovation in Natural Fibres Award was won by Ms. Marie-Isabel Popzyk, Scientific Assistant at RWTH Aachen University and Dr. Roland Klein, Group Manager at the Fraunhofer Institute LBF in Germany. Their submission, "Reduction of the moisture absorption of natural fibers and production of no-twist yarns for use in structural components," showed that up to 100% bio-based, natural fibre reinforced plastics (NFRP) with low moisture absorption can be developed for application in structural components.

The 2018 DNFI award was won by Velener Textil. The winning process, "WECYCLED® - Real added value for weaving mills and our partners in the textile chain," was submitted by Mr. Ernst Grimmelt, CEO and Sales Manager Yarns, under the category of Innovative processes/procedures. Under the WECYCLED® system ([www.wecycled.de](http://www.wecycled.de)), Velener Textil collects spent cones from partner mills and separates the unused cotton yarn in special sheltered workshops that meet the highest standards of employee safety and environmental protection. Velener Textil has developed a sophisticated method to recycle the recovered cotton into new yarns that fulfill the requirements for color fastness, strength and other attributes in high-quality consumer products. Commercial applications include the production of bed linen and knitted clothing.

### **Nominations for the 2019 DNFI Innovation in Natural Fibres Award are now being accepted.**

Candidates for the DNFI Innovation Award 2019 are requested to send the appropriate submission form to DNFI, e-mail: [Secretariat@DNFI.org](mailto:Secretariat@DNFI.org). Forms are available on the DNFI web site.

*Awards will be judged in three categories:*

- Innovative products/components or applications
- Innovative processes/procedures
- Research and science

*Evaluation criteria are:*

- Outstanding scientific work and technical feasibility
- Level of improvement or effectiveness of the innovation over existing products or processes
- Degree to which the innovative product or process has been implemented
- Potential for opening new outlets, markets or sectors for products made of natural fibres

*Deadlines:*

- Closing date for applications: 10 September 2019
- Short-listed competitors notified; 17 September 2019
- Worldwide voting conducted through 8 October 2019
- Winner announced 9 October 2019

***Judging Procedures:***

There will be a two-step selection process:

In a First Round during the week of 10 September 2019, a sub-committee of DNFI members will winnow the applications to approximately 5 finalists across the three categories.

In a Second Round, all members of DNFI, and anyone, anywhere in the world, including persons who are not members of DNFI, may create a voter ID on the DNFI web site and vote for the best among the finalists. A single award winner will be chosen by majority vote. The results of the First and Second Rounds shall be final. There will be no right of appeal.

**More About DNFI**

The Discover Natural Fibres Initiative is a platform for those who believe in natural fibres. DNFI facilitates the exchange of information and experiences and works to advance the common interests of all natural fibres in the face of competition with oil-based and wood-based manmade fibres. Representatives of natural fibre industries as diverse as abaca, alpaca, angora, cashmere, coir, cotton, flax, industrial hemp, jute, mohair, ramie, silk, sisal and wool participate in DNFI.

DNFI is entirely volunteer supported. There are no membership dues, the organization has no budget or Secretariat, and the organization does not conduct projects. Instead, DNFI facilitates communication and collaboration through the exchange of information.

During 2019, members of DNFI will meet in Venice, Italy, in April, in Porto, Portugal, in July, and again in Porto, Portugal, in October.

The meeting in Venice, Italy in April will be adjacent to the 2019 Congress of the International Wool Textile Organization.

The meeting in Porto, Portugal during 1-3 July will occur during the 4th International Conference on Natural Fibers (ICNF2019). DNFI will conduct a 2-hour session on natural fiber markets and sustainability issues.

DNFI will meet again in Porto during 20-22 October during the annual conference of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation.

The next Annual Steering Committee Meeting of DNFI will be held on Wednesday 8 January 2020 in Frankfurt during Heimtextil.

Membership in DNFI is open to anyone with an interest in the growth of natural fibre industries. To become a member, simply register on line at [www.DNFI.org](http://www.DNFI.org) .