

Finland Wins the Highest International Heat Pump Award

Finnish heat pump expertise, the exemplary speed in which heat pumps have been placed on the market, and Finnish society's open-minded attitude to new technology were noted globally at the IEA Heat Pump Conference in Korea. Mr Jussi Hirvonen, long-time Executive Director of the Finnish Heat Pump Association SULPU, was awarded the Peter Ritter von Rittinger International Heat Pump Award - the highest international award in the heat pump field.

The Rittinger award is given every three years by IEA's global heat pump organisation (IEA TCP HPT) to an individual or organisation who has significantly contributed to the advancement of heat pump technology and its implementation or the promotion of awareness thereof on a national and international level. The Rittinger award was given in conjunction with the international IEA Heat Pump Conference (HPC2020), held in Korea, to the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Energy Engineering (UM CEEE) in the US, to Professor Ruzhu Wang at Shanghai University in China, and to Mr Jussi Hirvonen, Executive Director of the Finnish Heat Pump Association SULPU.



Finland is known as a front runner in heat pump technology. Jussi Hirvonen's nomination came as no surprise. Finland is one of the world's leading heat pump markets, and Jussi Hirvonen has strongly influenced the development of the sector in Finland as a founding member, Chairman of the Board, and member of the Finnish Heat Pump Association SULPU for more than 10 years, and then, for the past 10 years, as the Executive Director of the Association. Jussi has promoted the field in a number of international positions. He is a founding member of the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA) and has been a member of its Board of Directors for more than 20 years. Jussi has been Finland's active delegate to the Heat Pump Program of International Energy Agency (IEA TCP HPT) for more than a decade. He has also worked in close cooperation with heat pump organisations in Finland's neighbouring countries.

Jessi's lectures and articles based on his longstanding, diverse and practical heat pump expertise have been noted on relevant international forums. Several countries have learned from and been encouraged by Finland's forerunner experiences with regard to the exploitation of this highly energy efficient technology and the development of the heat pump market. Jussi Hirvonen being granted the Peter Ritter von Rittinger International Heat Pump Award was influenced by his international reputation in the field as well as his passionate attitude towards heat pumps - which leaves no one indifferent.



For his nomination, Jussi Hirvonen thanks the Finnish Heat Pump Association and its members for its support and all the Finnish and international professors and other actors in the field who supported his nomination.

Due to Covid-19, the Rittinger gala could not this time take place on site in Korea in Jeju Island but was organised as an international video conference instead.

The award is named after Peter Ritter von Rittinger, an Austrian engineer who designed and installed the world's first heat pump in Austria in 1856 to produce salt (<https://heatpumpingtechnologies.org/about/rittinger-award/>).