

Press release

Rittal GmbH & Co. KG



Rittal wins innovation award for "Blue e+" cooling units

German Industry Innovation Award: Blue e+ is the best product in 2015!

The new generation of Blue e+ cooling units from Rittal has received German industry's Innovation Award for the best product. The jury from "Produktion" magazine and Staufen AG management consultancy, who awarded the prize for the first time this year, was impressed by the high energy efficiency, intuitive operation and the Industry 4.0 readiness of the cooling units. The German Industry Innovation Award acknowledges outstanding developments that boost Germany's Mittelstand of medium-sized companies in particular.

Herborn, 5 November 2015 – "With the Blue e+, Rittal is making an important contribution to environmental sustainability in the industry". In his eulogy, Professor Thomas Bauernhansl, Head of the Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation (IPA), explained the jury's decision. The experts from the 'Produktion' trade journal and Staufen AG management consultancy agreed: Blue e+ is the best product and receives the German Industry Innovation Award. Rittal Managing Director Dr. Thomas Steffen, Director of Pre-Development Heiko Holighaus and developer Juan Carlos Cacho Alonso accepted the award at the German industry Innovation Forum in Stuttgart. Silke Krebs, Minister of the State Ministry of Baden-Württemberg, paid tribute to the winners' contribution: "The competitive pressure on our industry is increasing, and it is important to uphold the power of innovation. The prize is a very good incentive for medium-sized companies. It encourages the development of creative and user-oriented innovations and so keeps our country attractive for the national and international markets."

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New thinking for greater energy efficiency

"To develop this new generation of devices, the company has fundamentally questioned and rethought many traditionally used methods and principles," continued the jury's assessment. Given the energy savings of 75%, the development has a huge impact on the approx. 2 million systems in which enclosure cooling units are in use. "Rittal earned this achievement award in the category Best Product," said Staufen director Martin Haas.

The new "Blue e+" generation of cooling devices for enclosures was presented to the public for the first time at the 2015 Hanover Fair – a quantum leap in terms of energy efficiency. This is because Rittal's innovation is equipped with a completely new technology that consumes around 75% less energy, as tests at a well-known automobile manufacturer have shown: The device's hybrid technology functions through the combination of a compressor cooling unit and a heat pipe. The compressor is only used when the passive cooling is no longer sufficient. Besides this, the devices can be operated flexibly in all standard grids, thanks to their multi-voltage capability. Standardised communication interfaces permit connection to Industry 4.0 structures.

"We are very pleased to receive this award", Dr. Steffen said in his Innovation Forum lecture; "It proves that such innovations as the 'Blue e+' not only offer advantages for our customers – society also benefits."

Innovation Forum: Summit meeting of innovation leaders

The German Industry Innovation Award was first presented in 2015. At the Innovation Forum in Stuttgart, Produktion and Staufen AG rewarded outstanding innovations by medium-sized German companies. This

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followed a multistage assessment process: Companies can apply for the innovation award with business models, products, processes or structures. Staufen consultants examine the innovations in terms of economic impact, benefits to society and sustainability. In an on-site audit, they then analyse the companies' innovation systems. Only then is the final decision made as to who are the leading innovators among the German SMEs, and who will be recognised at the Innovation Forum. The event's patron is Winfried Kretschmann, Minister President of Baden-Württemberg.

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Captions

Fri1520314.jpg: Proud winners: Dr Thomas Steffen, Rittal's Managing Director, Research and Development (m.), Heiko Holighaus, Director of Pre-Development (r.) and developer Juan Carlos Cacho Alonso (l.) accepted the German Industry Innovation Award.



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About Rittal

Rittal, headquartered in Herborn, Germany, is a leading global provider of solutions for industrial enclosures, power distribution, climate control and IT infrastructure, as well as software and services. Systems made by Rittal are deployed across a variety of industrial and IT applications, including vertical sectors such as the transport industry, power generation, mechanical and plant engineering, IT and telecommunications. Rittal is active worldwide with 10,000 employees and 58 subsidiaries.

Its broad product range includes infrastructure solutions for modular and energy-efficient data centres with innovative concepts for the security of physical data and systems. Leading software providers Eplan and Cideon complement the value chain, providing interdisciplinary engineering solutions, while Kiesling Maschinentechnik offers automation systems for switchgear construction.

Founded in Herborn in 1961 and still run by its owner, Rittal is the largest company in the Friedhelm Loh Group. The Friedhelm Loh Group operates worldwide with 18 production sites and 78 international subsidiaries. The entire group employs more than 11,500 people and generated revenues of around €2.2 billion in 2014. In 2015, it was named one of Germany's leading employers by the Top Employers Institute, for the seventh year running.

For more information, visit www.rittal.com and www.friedhelm-loh-group.com.