

# press release

## Call for projects from 9 October 2018 until 9 January 2019: ArcelorMittal launches the Innovator Awards focusing on the Connected Factory

9 October 2018 – ArcelorMittal, the world's leading steel making company and a major player in French industry, is getting behind innovation by supporting the men and women who are creating the industries of the future.

The steel industry is increasingly digital, connected and "smart": that's why, for the second edition of the Innovator Awards, ArcelorMittal has decided to showcase people spearheading projects designed to bring about the Connected Factory. From drones to virtual reality, robots to artificial intelligence – there are no limits when it comes to digital innovation for industry!

Innovative men and women are invited to submit their applications via the [www.prixdesinnovateurs.com](http://www.prixdesinnovateurs.com) website between 9 October 2018 and 9 January 2019 and try their hand at winning one of the three grants that are up for grabs: €30,000, €15,000 and €10,000. A panel made up of eight people will convene in March 2019 and vote for the best projects. The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in April 2019.

*"By launching this second edition of the Innovator Awards, we are confirming our commitment to innovation in France. Digital technologies are rapidly sweeping across our industry. This is a development that we want to support by helping the men and women engaged in innovation to launch and get their projects up and running",* says Eric Niedziela, Country Head of ArcelorMittal in France and President of the Innovator Awards panel.

### Who? Everyone

The competition is open to students, young graduates, entrepreneurs... more widely, anyone spearheading an innovative project to do with the Connected Factory – alone or as part of a team.

### What? The Connected Factory

If a project is innovative, digital and likely to change the way people work in industry, then it can be entered into the Innovator Awards.

So it can be to do with production or maintenance, as well as e-commerce, collaborative working methods, the supply chain, research and development, human resources or customer relations (CRM). All areas are covered!



## How much? Up to €30,000

The three most relevant and promising projects will be rewarded: the first two will be selected by a panel made up of eight people from the world of tech and industry (see presentation of the panel below), and the third will be voted for by ArcelorMittal's employees in France.



The winners will receive grants of €30,000, €15,000 and €10,000 which will help them get their projects off the drawing board or further develop them.

## How? Visit [www.prixdesinnovateurs.com](http://www.prixdesinnovateurs.com)

Innovators have until 9 January 2019 to submit their projects via the [Innovator Awards](http://www.prixdesinnovateurs.com) website.

The projects will then be looked at by the panel. Once they have drawn up a short-list, the panel will convene in March 2019 when the selected candidates will get to pitch their projects and the best ones will be chosen.

Several selection criteria have been chosen: the inventiveness of the project, its maturity, its feasibility, any ways in which it may be extended and the quality of the presentation to the panel members.

The names of winners will be announced at the awards ceremony in April 2019.

## When?



**9 January 2019:** Closing date for submitting applications

**January-February 2019:** Projects assessed by the panel

**March 2019:** Finalists deliver their pitches before the panel and employees vote

**April 2019:** Prize-awards ceremony

## Follow news about the Innovator Awards in real-time:

- on [www.prixdesinnovateurs.com](http://www.prixdesinnovateurs.com)
- on Twitter [@ArcelorMittalF](https://twitter.com/ArcelorMittalF)
- on LinkedIn by following [ArcelorMittal France](https://www.linkedin.com/company/arcelor-mittal-france)
- on [ArcelorMittal France's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



## A panel of experts

For the second edition of the Innovator Awards, the panel will be made up of eight people from the world of tech and industry.



**Corinne Jouanny**  
**Altran Group – Innovation Officer**

Corinne Jouanny leads innovation and R&D programmes for the Altran Group. As a pioneer in the implementation of design thinking in industry, she was voted 2014 "Woman in innovation" by the French business magazine L'Usine Nouvelle for its Women's Awards. Corinne Jouanny has a PhD in Materials Science from the Paris *Ecole des Mines*.



**Antoine Meffre**  
**Eco-Tech Ceram – CEO**

Antoine Meffre is an engineer and has a PhD in energy process engineering. He is currently CEO of Eco-Tech Ceram, an engineering company specialised in industrial ecology. This company, which employs 11 people and develops solutions for reusing heat generated by industrial processes, was one of the prize-winners in ArcelorMittal's 2016 Innovator Awards.



**Marie-Sophie Pawlak**  
**Elles Bougent (Girls on the Move) Association – Founder President**

A chemistry graduate, Marie-Sophie Pawlak began her career in R&D before occupying a number of positions in France's *Grandes Ecoles* between 1999 and 2016. In December 2005, Marie-Sophie Pawlak founded the "*Elles bougent*" association to meet manufacturers' need for better gender equality among their technical teams.



**Olivier Mathiot**  
**Rakuten France – CEO**

A graduate of the HEC business school, Olivier Mathiot first worked in advertising before co-founding PriceMinister. Currently chairman of Rakuten France, he is also a business angel, co-chairman of France Digitale (an association set up to promote the emergence of major digital champions from France's crop of start-ups) and CEO of The Camp.



**Carl de Maré**  
**ArcelorMittal – Group Head of Technology Strategy**

An engineer specialised in electromechanics, Carl de Maré joined ArcelorMittal in 1988. After a career that took him from an IT role to quality control via R&D, in 2002 he was appointed general manager of the ArcelorMittal steel plant in Ghent (Belgium). Since 2014, Carl de Maré has been VP of the ArcelorMittal Group and Group Head of Technology Strategy.



### **Maryline Dorbais**

#### **ArcelorMittal Méditerranée – Head of the Progress Academy**

Maryline Dorbais has a vocational training certificate in industrial automation and an engineering qualification, and is head of ongoing progress (Progress Academy) at ArcelorMittal Méditerranée, having previously worked in training. Maryline Dorbais began her career as an operations and cross-category manager with General Motors and Toyota.



### **Wim Van Gerven**

#### **ArcelorMittal – CEO Business Division North – Flat Products**

Wim Van Gerven began his career in 1988 at ArcelorMittal's Gand site (Belgium). Having held a number of managerial positions with ArcelorMittal in Belgium, Germany and Poland, in 2013 he was appointed CEO of ArcelorMittal Europe's Business Division North for Flat Products. Wim has a Master's degree in Civil Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, as well as an MBA.



### **Eric Niedziela**

#### **ArcelorMittal – Country Head France**

Eric Niedziela is a graduate of the *École Nationale Supérieure d'Arts et Métiers* ITII engineering school. Having worked with Tubes, Stainless Steels and Alloys at ArcelorMittal, in 2009 he was appointed Chief Technology Officer for the Business Division North. Since 2014, Eric has been CEO of ArcelorMittal Atlantique et Lorraine, ArcelorMittal's largest European cluster. Eric Niedziela is also Country Head for France.

## **ArcelorMittal and innovation**

**Innovation and digitisation are already omnipresent at ArcelorMittal's factories in France and throughout the world:** automated systems, models, artificial intelligence, robots, big data, working together remotely, virtual reality – these are tools that ArcelorMittal's 16,000 employees already use on a day-to-day basis in France.

As a major player in French and global industry, ArcelorMittal also ensures that **research and development are central to both its strategy and its future.** With more than 800 researchers in France, its R&D divisions develop the products and steel-making techniques of the future, expanding their range of skills to include digitisation and big data.



### **The Connected Factory**

For this second edition of the Innovator Awards, ArcelorMittal is launching a call for projects based on the theme of the **Connected Factory**. Drones, collaborative working, virtual reality, CRM systems, driverless cars, robotics, artificial intelligence, etc. **Today's factories are permanently connected** to their clients, employees and suppliers.

**The factory is at the very heart of any production and services ecosystem** and is undergoing rapid change: digital innovation is having a profound effect on ways of working.

**Any innovative, digital project that is likely to change the way people work** in industry is welcome. Maybe you have a project to do with production, maintenance or logistics? Perhaps you've come up with a more effective way of managing human resources or communicating? Or of sharing knowledge, selling more effectively, purchasing more effectively? Then your innovation might be the next winner of ArcelorMittal's Innovator Awards!

## A look back at the successful 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Innovator Awards

### 53 projects, 6 winners

The first edition of the Innovator Awards back in 2016 pitted 103 applicants against one another – students, young graduates and entrepreneurs from all over France. A total of 53 projects were submitted in two categories:

**Big Data** and **Energy Storage** Once the panel had finished deliberating, six projects were awarded prizes at the ceremony on 20 July 2016: three in each category.



### Prize-winners for the 1<sup>st</sup> edition

#### meteo\*swift

Meteo\*swift won first prize in the Big Data category at the 2016 Innovator Awards. The project combines a metrological/physical approach with a statistical/artificial intelligence approach to predict the quantities of electricity that will be generated by windfarms.

Wind power is intermittent, so it can disturb the electricity grid – which needs a stable voltage. To balance the grid, the amount of electricity that will be generated by wind farms therefore needs to be forecast one day in advance. To do this, meteo\*swift uses artificial intelligence in a real breakthrough. This way, huge quantities of data can be manipulated, resulting in better-quality forecasts. And using complex statistical methods also makes for more precise forecasts.

From the outset, meteo\*swift provides forecasts that are appropriate for each type of windfarm, supplemented by uncertainty measurements. The result is a complete decision-making tool for use on the new electricity markets. Founded by Morgane Barthod, a graduate of France's *Ecole Polytechnique*, the start-up now has around 15 or so French and European clients, including some big names from the electricity sector, such as Total, Uniper and Enedis.

<https://www.meteoswift.fr/>



First prize in the Energy Storage category in the 2016 Innovator Awards, **Ecostock** is a project developed by **Eco-Tech Ceram**, founded and run by Antoine Meffre, a 35-year-old materials engineer with a PhD in process engineering.

Ecostock provides manufacturers with a solution for harnessing lost heat and reducing their energy consumption by up to 40%. It operates in the same way as a rechargeable heat battery: during the charging phase, hot air and/or fumes heat up the materials inside the Ecostock;

then during the discharge phase, air at room temperature is injected into the Ecostock so it can be heated. Then when it exits the battery, it can be used as a clean, safe and effective heat source.

Ecostock is a transportable, profitable and innovative solution that can be used with unused lost heat above 150°C so it can supplement existing heat networks. It uses materials derived from the circular economy, ensuring that it is consistent with the principles of the energy transition.

[www.ecotechceram.com](http://www.ecotechceram.com)

To view all the winners of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Innovator Awards, [click here](#)

## About ArcelorMittal

*ArcelorMittal is the world's leading steel and mining company. With some 197,000 employees, it operates in 60 countries and has an industrial footprint in 18 countries. Guided by the desire to manufacture steel that is safe and durable, we are the main suppliers of high-quality steel to the world's major steel markets, including the automotive sector, construction, household appliances and packaging. We are supported by a global research and development department and excellent distribution networks.*

*In 2017, ArcelorMittal posted turnover of US\$68.7 billion and produced 93.1 million tonnes of crude steel and 57.4 million tonnes of iron ore.*

*In France, ArcelorMittal has 15,840 employees, including nearly 800 researchers spread over 40 production sites, its distribution and service centres and its three R&D sites. In 2017, ArcelorMittal produced 11 million tonnes of liquid steel in France. France accounts for 32% of ArcelorMittal's flat steel production in Europe.*

For further information, visit <http://corporate.arcelormittal.com> and [www.arcelormittalinfrance.com](http://www.arcelormittalinfrance.com)



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