



Presentation ceremony for the 2023 Nicolaus August Otto Award

Welcome address

Dr. Sebastian C. Schulte, Chief Executive Officer of DEUTZ AG

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**Professor Wan Gang,
Envoy-Counselor Linhao Chen,
Professor Schuh,
ladies and gentlemen,**

Welcome to this year's award ceremony for the Nicolaus August Otto Award. Today, we are presenting DEUTZ AG's innovation prize for the fifth time. And I am delighted to be able to pay tribute once more to a true pioneer.

Being innovative, exploring new ideas, and turning them from vision to reality. A person can only do this if they are constantly moving forward. They need to utilize all their knowledge and expertise to head in different directions. To break new ground, as in the name of this event. And to pave the way for others. The winner of this year's Nicolaus August Otto Award is an individual who fits this description perfectly. Someone who is always moving forward and inspiring others to do the same.

Today, we honor a person who is held in high regard the world over as a developer, defender, and champion of alternative drive technologies, Professor Wan Gang. Unfortunately, Professor Wan Gang cannot be with us today to accept the Nicolaus August Otto Award in person. So my greetings instead go to China and to our award winner this year: Congratulations, Professor Wan Gang!



Like our company founder Nicolaus August Otto, Professor Wan Gang was far ahead of his time. “It was in Clausthal that I learned the methods and skills that I now use to produce innovations,” said this year’s award winner when he was appointed an honorary professor at Clausthal University of Technology in 2016. And of this there is no doubt: Professor Wan Gang has succeeded in persuading China of the possibilities presented by alternative drive systems and how crucial they are for the country’s future. **His vision to make China a leader in electromobility revolutionized in the global automotive industry.**

The appearance of a Chinese car manufacturer at the 2010 World Expo will never be forgotten. After a video showed the seemingly endless benefits of electric vehicles, it was as if a curtain had opened. And when 1,017 EVs drove across the exhibition grounds, it was as if the future had arrived. Professor Wan Gang’s vision had paved the way for this moment. A little while later, he championed the merits of hydrogen technology with similar success.

Keeping the world moving with a passion for technology – that has been the DEUTZ philosophy for almost 160 years. We strongly believe that it takes people to see the possibilities. People who fill these possibilities with life and then bring them to reality through their vision and determination. Professor Wan Gang has this determination, he has this energy.

Climate-friendly, low-emission drives. This is now DEUTZ’s world too. As an engine manufacturer operating at a global level, we focus our attention both on the Paris climate goals and on our customers’ expectations as regards functionality. Our team works hard every day to



keep the world moving. **The industries that we supply with engines are in the midst of a fundamental shift toward greater climate neutrality.**

Whether they produce construction equipment, combine harvesters, or forklift trucks, manufacturers are facing the same challenges across the board: They need to transition to climate-friendly drive systems. **This transformation is a huge task, but it is one that we are determined to take on. Not least because it also represents a tremendous commercial opportunity.** I think the discussions held here today have been a powerful reminder of this.

In order to develop and build drive technologies for the post-fossil age, we are innovating with a technology-neutral approach. We are exploring a variety of concepts without dismissing any option out of hand. **Worldwide, DEUTZ is among the first manufacturers to go into volume production of a hydrogen engine.** The TCG 7.8 H2 is already proving its worth in several pilot projects. And in February, we signed a memorandum of understanding for delivery of an initial small-scale production run of H2 gensets. Their destination? The home country of Professor Wan Gang, China.

For us, embracing new technologies also means **continuing to drive forward electrification and hydrogen technology.** But the fact is that **our classic combustion engines are still bringing in the money that we need to transform our business.** Indeed, combustion engines with a power range of more than 100 kilowatts will remain in high demand going forward. And so we are continually striving to make our engines better, cleaner, and more efficient.

Nicolaus August Otto, who founded our company, invented the four-stroke engine in 1876. His engine set the world in motion. It was a huge leap



forward and opened the door to even more advances. **Our ambition is to keep the world of tomorrow moving with our engines and drive systems. We remain true to our values. But we also reinvent ourselves.** Because that is the very definition of pioneering spirit.

With his groundbreaking research work, Professor Wan Gang is very much following in the tradition of our company founder. **So I am particularly pleased to be able to honor him today with the Nicolaus August Otto Award for his many years of dedication to the cause.**

Unfortunately, Professor Wan Gang is unable to be with us here today. The award will be accepted on his behalf by Envoy-Counselor Chen Linhao from the Chinese Embassy. Mr. Chen Linhao, if I may ask you to join me on the stage. Thank you.

As Professor Wan Gang cannot be here today, he has sent us a video message from China. Ladies and gentlemen, the winner of the **2023 Nicolaus August Otto Award!**