PRESS RELEASE

CLEPA Innovation Awards: Suppliers support a future for EU research funding that turns innovation into industrial success

- **At the 10th edition of the awards, industry leaders urged EU institutions to back a dedicated Automotive Joint Undertaking to strengthen collaborative research and accelerate the development of new technologies.**
- **Ten suppliers, from multinationals to SMEs, received recognition for innovations supporting the digital and green transitions.**

Brussels, 20 November 2026 – **Europe's automotive suppliers called for more effective research and innovation funding at the tenth CLEPA Innovation Awards. A dedicated Automotive Joint Undertaking should help companies and research partners turn Europe's scientific and technological strengths into innovations that strengthen industrial competitiveness.**



Speaking to representatives from industry, academia and European institutions, **Manuel Aleixo**, Expert in the Cabinet of European Commissioner for Start-ups, Research and Innovation, Ekaterina Zaharieva, opened the event. He was joined on stage by CLEPA President **Matthias Zink**, who thanked the European Commission for their latest proposal supporting automotive innovation:

"Europe has the research expertise and industrial capabilities to lead in automotive innovation. We need research funding that helps turn these strengths into new technologies

and competitive products, with simpler access, faster decisions and effective coordination between industry and research partners. An Automotive Joint Undertaking can make a real difference by supporting collaboration and accelerating the development of future technologies. We call on all EU institutions to back an initiative with the funding and governance needed to deliver results."



The ten top innovators, recognised across the Digital and Green categories, come from suppliers of all sizes, from multinationals to SMEs. Now in its tenth year, the event marked a milestone for European supplier innovation and a chance to show what it has delivered and what it needs next.

The evening featured a set of fireside chats on strategic priorities for the supply industry with policy makers and other stakeholders, including **Thomas Pellerin-Carlin**, Member of the European Parliament (FR, S&D), Dr **Elmar Pritsch**, Partner, Software-defined Vehicle at Deloitte, and **Andrea Gentili**, Horizon Europe Clean Planet Partnerships Manager at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

CLEPA Secretary General **Benjamin Krieger** delivered the closing remarks of the ceremony by congratulating this year's top innovators and thanking the 35 jury members who assessed this year's applications.

Explore the top innovations, and other materials here: Home - CLEPA Innovation Awards

Deloitte has been a longstanding supporter of the event, and CLEPA is grateful for the continued partnership.

Top Innovators 2026

Green

- Brembo - Grentell Set
- Magnetless - UESM - New Magnetless Motor Topology to Transform the Automotive Industry
- PERSISKIN, SL Next-Generation Vegetal Covering
- ProLogium Technology - Superfluidized inorganic lithium ceramic battery
- Valeo - ReVive Polycarbonate: Recycled Plastic from End-of-Life Vehicles

Digital

- Aptiv - Gen 8 radar
- FORVIA HELLA - Front Phygital Shield with Main Lighting and sensors
- Niulinx S.p.A. - AutoDrive Platform - Autonomous Driving retrofitting kit
- Peregrine.ai - Peregrine Vision
- STMicroelectronics - In-Cabin Innovation with Advanced Global- and rolling shutter Image Sensor

About CLEPA

CLEPA, the European Association of Automotive Suppliers based in Brussels, represents over 3,000 companies, from multi-nationals to SMEs, supplying state-of-the-art components and innovative technology for safe, smart and sustainable mobility. The industry invests over €30 billion yearly in research and innovation and employs 1.7 million people across the EU.

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You can contact us at communications@clepa.be.