

Nanion Overall Winner of the Step Award 2009

Munich, Germany, Nov. 26th, 2009; Nanion Technologies GmbH was announced the overall winner of the STEP Award 2009, a business award for innovative and fast-growing companies. More than 120 companies competed in this year's STEP Award and Nanion as the grand prize-winner receives a cash prize of € 50,000 and a comprehensive service package worth the same amount.

Nanion was announced winner of this years STEP Award during the award ceremony held at a gala dinner on the 50th floor of the Commerz Bank Tower in Frankfurt. The STEP Award, a business award initiated by InfraserV Höchst and F.A.Z.-Institut Innovationsprojekte (Innovation Projects), was awarded for the fourth time this year. The purpose of the STEP Award is to raise the prize-winners business to the next level by awarding prize money, a service package, networking opportunities, communications, production and infrastructure to the winning company.

Dr. Niels Fertig, CEO of Nanion, says *"The STEP Award is a great honour for the work the Nanion team has accomplished in the recent years. We are very happy about the recognition of our innovative drug screening instrumentation and our continued effort to take ion channel screening to the next level."*

Nanions product portfolio consists of three product families for sophisticated cell analysis, which are being used in the development of new medicines as well as in academic research. With the latest introduction of the third generation high throughput patch clamp system, the SyncroPatch 96, the screening of ion channel drugs is revolutionized in terms of time and cost efficiency.

About Nanion:

Nanion Technologies GmbH is a German Private Limited Company and was founded in 2002 as a spin-off from the Center for Nanoscience (CeNS) of the University of Munich. Nanion's team has developed and globally established two highly successful automated patch clamp instruments as enabling tools for sophisticated and high throughput applications for ion channel research and drug discovery. Nanion's instruments use planar patch clamp chips which replace the traditional glass pipette used in the technique of patch clamping.

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About the STEP Award for innovative, fast-growing businesses

The STEP Award, a business award initiated by Infracor Höchst and F.A.Z.-Institut Innovationsprojekte (Innovation Projects), is being awarded for the fourth time this year. More than 280 companies have competed for this prize in the last three years. The competition is open to successful businesses operating in the pharmaceutical, chemical, life-science, biotechnology, nanotechnology, medical-engineering and greentech industries in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

For more information and entry forms, please contact F.A.Z.-Institut, Innovationsprojekte, Michael Klapproth, Kirsten Boeder, phone +49 69 7591-23 04, info@step-award.de or www.step-award.de.

The initiators – Infracor Höchst and F.A.Z.-Institut, Innovationsprojekte

Infracor is a leading infrastructure operator and service provider for the chemical, pharmaceutical and related process industries. Infracor operates one of Europe's largest production and research sites: Industriepark Höchst in Frankfurt, Germany.

F.A.Z.-Institut Innovationsprojekte specializes in innovation-related communication, knowledge transfer, experience sharing and consulting for executives and professionals. As innovation is increasingly viewed as an all-encompassing process, innovation and communication have become more tightly integrated and have risen to key disciplines in the management of successful businesses.