

Presentation of the "2022 Wilhelm R. Buessem Award" to Eberhard Hennig

At its autumn meeting on 5 October 2022, the Center for Dielectrics and Piezoelectric – CDP, an NSF Industry/ University Cooperative Research Center of the Pennsylvania State University in the USA, conferred the "2022 Wilhelm R. Buessem Award" on the physicist Eberhard Hennig.

The honour was conferred by the CDP for the first time in 1989 to Dr Wilhelm R. Buessem for his outstanding contributions to the field of dielectrics. Previous recipients over the last few years include well-known personalities such as E. Cross, D. Smyth, K. Wakino, D. Hennings, R. Waser and K. Uchino. As the 34th award winner, Eberhard Hennig ranks as the fifth German among the annually chosen laureates. The CDP is a consortium that under the auspices of the National Science Foundation is made up of 26 international partners, including universities and companies in the field of dielectrics and piezoelectrics, with the objective of steering the research of the participating universities and harnessing this to resolve relevant problems in industry.

Having graduated with a diploma in Physics from the University of Halle/Saale, the laureate Eberhard Hennig (70) worked from 1977, without interruption, in industry research on piezoceramic materials and

components, initially at the Keramische Werke Hermsdorf (KWH), and from 1994 at PI Ceramic GmbH in Lederhose/Thuringia, spending many years as head of research and development. In numerous projects, he realised fundamental developments concerning PTZ-based piezoelectrics and their applications, after 2004 he also addressed promising lead-free piezoelectrics. At the focus of his research and developments was always the solution of customer problems with the development of new products and the technologies necessary for their production. Moreover, he is the author or co-author of more than 20 national and international patents as well as over 25 publications. From 2016 to 2018, he was also representative of PI Ceramic GmbH as co-chair and chair of the Industrial Advisory Board of the CDP. Following research work at the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute (KWI) in Berlin/Dahlem, Dr Wilhelm R. Buessem (1903–1992), who gave his name to the award, was re-

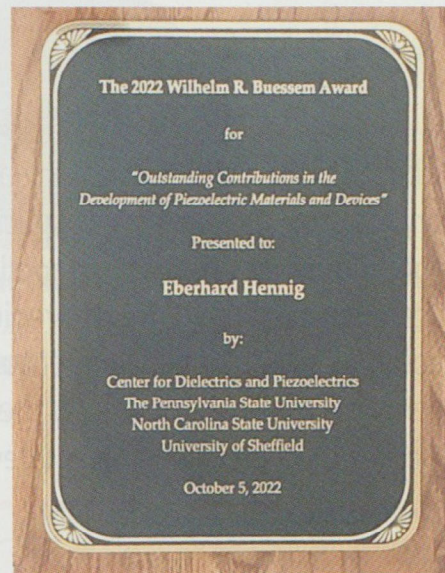


Fig. 1 2022 Wilhelm R. Buessem Award
(Source: E. Hennig)

sponsible for research and developments important for Germany's war effort at the Thuringian porcelain factory at Neuhaus-Schierschnitz owned by Siemens-Schuckert AG. These concerned, for instance, steatite materials for HF technology, aeroplane spark plugs and turbine blades made of oxide ceramics. After his immigration to the USA in 1947, he was engaged as part of the secret service operation Paperclip for the US Airforce. From the 1950s, he worked to his retirement in 1968 as professor of ceramic science at Pennsylvania State University.

On account of COVID-19, Eberhard Hennig was only presented with the actual "2022 Wilhelm R. Buessem Award" by Prof. Dr Clive A. Randall, Director of the Materials Research Institute at Pennsylvania State University, during a small ceremony in Jena under the direction of Prof. Dr Jörg Töpfer at the start of the German Ceramic Society's Annual Meeting 2023. This ceremony was held on 27 March 2023, marking what would have been Dr Wilhelm R. Buessem's 120th birthday. The Verein für Regional- und Technikgeschichte e.V. Hermsdorf (Association of Regional and Technical History Hermsdorf) and the German Ceramic Society (DKG) sincerely congratulate Dipl. Phys. Eberhard Hennig on this prestigious award.

Friedmar Kerbe, Dr Detlef Nicklas,



Fig. 2 Presentation of the Buessem Award to E. Hennig (r.) by Prof. Dr C. A. Randall