



Press Release

Award for innovative insulation materials made from hemp

Naporo Klima Dämmstoff GmbH wins the STEP Award in the "Sustainability" category

Ober-Ramstadt, 8th December 2014 (DAW) - Naporo Klima Dämmstoff GmbH from Austria which belongs to Hesse's building paints and insulation systems manufacturer, DAW SE, was presented with the German STEP Award 2014 in the "Sustainability" category. The presentation took place on 3rd December 2014 within the scope of a celebratory gala in the Höchst Industrial Park in Frankfurt am Main.

Naporo GmbH from the Upper Austrian town of Perg developed the first certified and technically mature hemp insulation for facades. The innovative and sustainable insulation material won the Austrian awards "Eco Label" and "Climate Protection Prize" back in 2013.

"We regard hemp as a renewable raw material for insulation offering a forward-looking sustainable solution," said Naporo COO, Frank Reiche, during the award presentation. The hemp fibre insulation board can be used just like EPS products (expanded polystyrene). Roofs, walls and, amazingly, whole facades can be insulated with it.

In contrast to current insulation materials, with the Naporo product more CO₂ can be bound in the material than is released during its manufacture. The hemp fibre boards can be recycled to form new insulation boards or used as a raw material to obtain biogas.

The award provides confirmation that insulation with hemp is not only ecologically extremely practicable, rather it is forward-

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looking in the ecological insulation material sector due to its very good insulation values.

"Hemp is a renewable raw material. It is very resilient and has good resistance to attack from pests. It does not need fertilizer and insecticides and binds enormous amounts of CO₂," explains Caparol Director, Guido Kuphal. Hemp grows very quickly, seven centimetres per day, flourishes on almost any soil and can be completely recycled. Apart from nutrition and medicines, the plant also supplies extremely tear-resistant fibres which also makes hemp the ideal raw material for house construction. There are already other fields of use; the boards can be used in offices, schools and kindergartens for acoustic insulation.

From 2015 DAW will take over the trade in hemp fibre insulation boards in Germany and Europe via its sales company, Caparol. The company publicly presented the ecological insulation alternative for the first time at the Munich exhibition "BAU 2015" in January.

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Illustration material:



PC: The winner of the STEP Award in the "Sustainability" category comes from Upper Austria – Guido Kuphal (Caparol Director) and Naporo COO, Frank Reiche, are delighted with the award. Laudator, Dr. Rainer Waldschmidt (Director of Hessen Trade & Invest GmbH), was one of the first with congratulations (from l.-r.)
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INNOVATIVE BESCHICHTUNGSSYSTEME SEIT 1895.





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PC: Due to the use of Austrian hemp (particularly from the Lower Austrian location of Hanfthal) Naporo is generating substantial regional, sustainable added value.

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Link list:

DAW SE web site	www.daw.de
Caparol web site	www.caparol.de
Naporo Klima Dämmstoff GmbH web site	www.naporo.com
Synthesa web site	www.synthesa.at
STEP Award web site	www.step-award.de



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About the STEP Award:

The STEP Award is a competition for finding innovative and strongly growing enterprises in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The corporate award was created in 2006 by the F.A.Z. Institute/FRANKFURT BUSINESS MEDIA and Infraser v. Höchst. As well as an overall winner, there are awards in the categories "Finance & Market/Customer", "Sustainability", "Product/Technology" and "Processes".

About the company: DAW SE, Ober-Ramstadt

The DAW Group is the market leader in the building paints sector in Germany, Austria and Turkey. In Europe the company occupies third place for building paints behind two large international companies. With about 6,000 employees in Germany and abroad and with an annual turnover of about 1.3 billion euros, DAW is Europe's largest building paints manufacturer in private ownership. The group of companies includes Caparol (paints, enamels, glazes, thermal insulation composite systems) and Alpina (the brand for DIY enthusiasts). The most well-known product is Alpinaweiß - Europe's most sold interior paint.

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