

**Joint press release by
Volkswagen and BASF**

**Volkswagen and BASF present “Science Award Electrochemistry”
to Dr. William Chueh from Stanford University, California**

- **The renowned award honors outstanding research results in the area of energy storage and conversion**
- **A special prize for applied research goes to Dr. Martin Ebner from the ETH University Zurich, Switzerland**
- **The award ceremony with about 80 guests from academia and industry took place at Humboldt Carré in Berlin, Germany**

Wolfsburg / Ludwigshafen, Germany, November 22, 2016 – The BASF and Volkswagen international “Science Award Electrochemistry 2016” goes to Dr. William Chueh from Stanford University, California. The jury of representatives from BASF, Volkswagen and from academia selected him for his outstanding research results in the area of energy storage and conversion. On the occasion of the 5th ceremony of the science award, a special prize for applied research goes to Dr. Martin Ebner from the ETH University Zurich, Switzerland for his excellent research in the area of fast charging of lithium-ion batteries.

Dr. William C. Chueh is assistant professor at the Department of Materials Science & Engineering and Center Fellow at the Precourt Institute for Energy – both at Stanford University in California. He has attained a new level of understanding for diverse fundamental battery dynamics which limit battery rate capability and life cycle. His insights are paving the way for further improving lithium-ion batteries and significantly enhancing their performance. By visualizing electrochemical reactions as they take place on length scales ranging from tens of microns down to sub-nanometer, William Chueh has delivered unprecedented insights into the design of functional materials with novel compositions and structures. With the “Science Award Electrochemistry” he receives prize money of €50,000.

Dr. Martin Ebner received his PhD in Material Science at the ETH University Zurich. His research focuses on new methods to increase the charging rates of lithium-ion batteries with novel electrode processing methods while reducing production costs. Martin Ebner is developing innovative battery anodes that allow fast charging and reduce degradation problems in the battery. In summer 2015, he received funding of the ETH Pioneer Fellowship program and founded the start-up Battrion AG in Luzern to pursue the commercialization of his innovations. The special prize for applied research is worth €15,000.

“BASF’s goal is to create chemistry for a sustainable future. And we all know that the battery is at the heart of electro-mobility. There is huge potential for systematic technological progress in this field, but there are scientific challenges we have to overcome,” said Dr. Martin Brudermüller, Vice Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors and Chief Technology Officer at BASF in his laudation. “The science of electrochemistry is a key research field for sustainable future mobility. Therefore, we need top-notch R&D around the globe performed by excellent researchers who inspire each other and lead their scientific communities to constantly develop new and better solutions.”

Dr. Ulrich Eichhorn, Head of Group Research and Development for Volkswagen AG, stressed the overriding importance of electric drive to the future of mobility: “Within the Volkswagen Group, we have a clear strategy for how we want to put battery-electric vehicles into series production across our brands and in many different market segments. However, a major prerequisite for success in the volume market is more powerful battery concepts. In Volkswagen Group Research and Development we are focusing on close cooperation, not only with industrial partners but also with the smart minds of the scientific community. The winners of our Science Award are an excellent example of innovative and creative ideas in this field.”

Knowledge of electrochemical processes and their application in the field of materials, battery cells or storage systems is key to developing future energy storage devices. Without these technologies, it is not possible to provide climate and resource-saving power supplies using regenerative energy or to achieve future drive concepts such as electric mobility. Current energy storage devices have so far been unable to attain the performance which power supply and mobility customers are accustomed to. For this reason, Volkswagen and BASF aim to motivate

researchers of excellence working in science and corporate research to place even more commitment to the field of electrochemistry and its applications.

The international “Science Award Electrochemistry” supports excellent scientific and engineering achievements and strives to provide fresh impetus to the development of high-efficiency energy storage devices. The science award has been held every year since 2012 and is targeted at scientists working in academic research all over the world. Total prize money is €100,000, with first place receiving €50,000. In 2016, on the occasion of the fifth ceremony of the science award, a special prize worth €15,000 is awarded to recognise applied research. www.science-award.com.

Contact persons:

BASF

Corporate Media Relations
Christian Böhme
Tel.: +49 (0)621 60 20130
christian.boehme@basf.com

Volkswagen

Group Communications
Andreas Brozat
Tel.: +49 (0)5361 943318
andreas.brozat@volkswagen.de

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Science Award Electrochemistry is a joint initiative of Volkswagen and BASF.