



PRESS RELEASE

SurFunction GmbH honored in KfW's business competition

Saarbrücken-based company was honored with the KfW Award as state winner. With its renowned competition, KfW recognizes business ideas from all over Germany that are characterized by a particular degree of innovation, creativity, sustainability and social added value. An experienced jury honored SurFunction and its patented technology in a multi-stage process. This makes it possible to create highly functional surfaces based on nature and opens new markets and competitive advantages for a wide range of industries.

Saarbrücken, November 8th, 2024 - SurFunction GmbH, a DeepTech and CleanTech company based in Saarbrücken and Dresden, was honored yesterday in Berlin as the state winner of Saarland at the KfW Awards. The company, represented by Managing Directors Dominik Britz and Ralf Zastrau, accepted the award at a festive event. The award, which is presented annually to outstanding young companies from all over Germany, recognizes excellent business ideas and awards prize money to one company from each federal state.

Stefan Wintels, CEO of KfW, emphasized the importance of the winners: "With the KfW Entrepreneurs' Award, we have been honoring the courage and innovative strength of founders for over 25 years and offering these role models a stage. Their creative solutions are indispensable for the transformation of the economy and society and are essential for employment and prosperity. By promoting these entrepreneurs, KfW is contributing to strengthening entrepreneurship in Germany."

SurFunction GmbH supports customers throughout the whole value chain, including series production, with the aim of achieving a high level of profitability



and rapid industrialization. In line with the motto "Nature knows best", the company offers new opportunities to create highly functional and sustainable surfaces.

Thanks to contactless surface functionalization using laser interference technology, SurFunction is a leading system provider with a cross-industry and cross-material platform. The ELIPSYS® technology (Extended Laser Interference Patterning System) offers a wide range of possible applications, such as improving electrical systems, reducing friction, protecting against wear, reducing energy requirements, improving biocompatibility, enabling special design effects and protecting against counterfeiting.

Industrial implementation takes place both at the customer's site and in our own technology centers. This opens new possibilities for numerous industries such as automotive, medical technology and mechanical engineering. SurFunction's surfaces are convincing due to their high material freedom (including polymer, metal, ceramic, glass) and the option of being able to implement almost any periodic structure based on nature.

Co-founder Dr. Dominik Britz: "Sustainability is directly anchored in SurFunction's DNA. All our expertise is aimed at creating environmentally friendly surface structures modeled on nature, which simultaneously improve the efficiency, service life, reliability and eco-balance of products. We are delighted to receive this award, as it shines a spotlight on a new, sustainable technology and thus contributes to making it more visible in the public eye."



Further Information:

[KfW Award Gründen | KfW](#)

About SurFunction:

SurFunction GmbH, headquartered in Saarbrücken, Germany, is a leading system provider for non-contact surface modification. The company uses award-winning and patented laser-based processes to create cost-effective and sustainable surface structures in record time. These structures are based on models from nature and offer new properties such as friction reduction, anti-adhesion, antibacterial effect, energy efficiency and more. SurFunction supports its customers with complete system solutions and highly functional interfaces to improve products and processes and contribute to resource conservation.

Upcoming trade fairs:

- Medica, 11th to 14th of November 2024 (Düsseldorf, H7A / B05)
- electronica, 12th to 15th of November 2024 (Munich, B2.471)

If you have any questions or would like to receive images, please contact:

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The background of DLIP and ELIPSYS®:

Decades of research have shown that surface structures play a decisive role in the performance of almost all technical components. Nature itself offers fascinating examples of the efficiency of surface structures: the non-stick properties of the lotus plant or the iridescent color effects on butterfly wings are only possible through complex micro- and nanostructures. However, replicating these natural phenomena on an industrial scale has been challenging due to a lack of technology that would enable economical production on an industrial scale.

The solution to this challenge has been made possible by groundbreaking research over the past few decades and the invention of "Direct Laser Interference Patterning" (DLIP). This technology has laid the foundation for revolutionizing the way we manipulate surfaces at the microscopic level. It uses the principle of interference, which is analogous to the interaction of colliding water waves. This analogy can be applied to light rays that are split and then superimposed in such a way that they interfere with the surface of the material. The result is precise, fine structures previously only found in nature.

The consistent further development of DLIP technology by SurFunction GmbH has now opened the door to industrial applications. For example, ELIPSYS® (Extended Laser Interference Patterning System), the latest generation of DLIP technology, enables the extremely fast and cost-effective generation of complex surface structures that improve the properties of a wide range of products (e.g. non-stick, antibacterial, energy-efficient, low-friction, electrically highly conductive or forgery-proof). DLIP and ELIPSYS® mark a turning point in the production and functionalization of material surfaces for a wide range of industries.