



For immediate release

## IMA-Europe announces the winners of its 2016 Recognition Awards in 4 categories

On 28 September 2016, IMA-Europe handed its 2016 Recognition Awards to outstanding projects in the industrial minerals sector, thereby assisted by independent and expert Jury Members. The Award Ceremony took place at a Gala Dinner attended by representatives from the industrial minerals (IM) industry, downstream industries, EU institutions, unions, NGOs, and academia. It was preceded by a reception and poster exhibition at which the audience could familiarize itself with the 26 submitted Award projects (see [Award brochure](#)).

The IMA 2016 Recognition Award Ceremony was presided by Mattia Pellegrini from the European Commission. He expressed that “it was not an easy task to select the winning projects. Speaking on behalf of the Jury, we found all projects to be of high quality and meriting promotion”.



The Members of the Jury announced the following IMA-Europe Award Winners for 2016:

- **Innovation:** Omya International and Imerys Filtration and Performance Additives.
- **Public Awareness, Acceptance & Trust:** Quarzwerke GmbH
- **Biodiversity:** Sibelco
- **Safety:** Sibelco

IMA-Europe President, Daniel J. Reuss, expressed that “*The IMA-Europe Award Scheme offers companies a very desirable platform to communicate their initiatives and develop them into Award applications. The resulting promotion of and exchange of best practices benefits the entire sector.*”

**THE JURY** electing the Winners for the Recognition Award consisted beside Mattia Pellegrini (DG GROW) of: Professor Dr Karel van Acker from KU Leuven, Boris Barov from Birdlife International, and Professor Dr Gregory Mahy from Gembloux University. The judging Panel electing the Winner of the IMA-Europe 2016 Safety Award, consisted of Brenda O’Brien from OSHA-EU, Mark Ellis from IMA North America and Martin Isles, Special Adviser on H&S to the UK Mineral Products Association.

### The 2016 Award Winning projects:

**INNOVATION** - Two Award winning projects: The innovative extraction technology developed by Omya International - the “**Raise Mining**” method - allows for the sustainable supply to a wide range of local industries from a small yet high purity marble ore of economic importance in Lenhard-Petrasch, Austria. The innovative product application “**ImerCare™ P-Scrub**” developed by Imerys Performance & Filtration Additives, is a mineral-based solution which provides a sustainable alternative to plastic microbeads.

**Industrial Minerals Association Europe aisbl, in short “IMA-Europe”**

Established under the Belgian law under the enterprise / VAT number BE 0452.946.151

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**PUBLIC AWARENESS, ACCEPTANCE AND TRUST - Quarzwerke GmbH** received the Award for their **project “Nature and Sand (NaSa) Explorers”**. The Jury praised this long-term educational initiative to engage local children into experiencing the biodiversity in and around the silica sand operations.

**BIODIVERSITY** - Sibelco was attributed the IMA-Europe 2016 Biodiversity Award for their corporate project **“Valuing our natural capital”**, which was well supported with many excellent local initiatives.

**SAFETY** - The IMA-Europe 2016 Safety Award on “Health protection and injury prevention” was attributed to the project **“No Dust Teams, innovation in dust measurements”**, submitted by **Sibelco**. This project, which allows to measure dust exposure on the job in real time with the help of a helmet camera and portable dust measuring device, connected to a monitoring software, was praised for its effectiveness, offering an easy to use, effective and transferable tool that allowed for greatly enhancing health and safety at the workplace.

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## IMA-Europe Award Scheme

Every two years, since 2006, IMA-Europe issues its prestigious Recognition Award. Symbolic in nature, it is a much valued token of recognition. IMA-Europe is thereby assisted by an independent expert Jury. It is considered an excellent way to promote the exchange of best practices within the sector.

In 2016, the IMA-Europe Recognition Awards are granted to outstanding projects that bring significant contributions to Safety, Innovation, Biodiversity and Public Awareness, Acceptance & Trust. The Award themes are linked to EU policy objectives, supporting notably the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. The IMA-Europe Safety Award on the other hand actively supports the IMA-Europe Target Zero Injury initiative; focusing this year on “Injury Prevention and Health Protection”. See the website <http://www.ima-europe.eu/award> for more information.

## About IMA-Europe

The European Industrial Minerals Association, IMA-Europe, is an umbrella organisation which brings together a number of European associations specific to individual minerals: Calcium Carbonates (GCC/PCC), Dolomite, Andalusite, Bentonite, Borates, Diatomite, Feldspar, Kaolin, Lime, Mica, Plastic Clays, Sepiolite, Silica, Talc, Vermiculite. Together, IMA-Europe's associations represent over 500 companies in 28 countries.

IMA-Europe provides sector-based representation for industrial minerals. The Association is particularly focused on representation at European Union (EU) institutional level and coordinates contacts with national and international authorities. IMA Europe is involved in all non-commercial issues related to the properties and safe use of minerals, from their extraction and processing through to their end-use applications. Health and safety at the workplace, environmental protection, product safety and awareness about the importance of industrial minerals for society are at the core of IMA Europe's priorities. IMA-Europe ensures that the industrial minerals industry at large benefits from the sharing of non-sensitive information and plays a supporting role in the promotion of best practices.

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Winners of the IMA-Europe 2016 Innovation Award:

Dr Günter Jandl & Matthias Sieffert from Omya (to the left) and Thierry Casteran & Ralph Calmès from Imerys Filtration and Performance Additives EMEA (far right).

Middle: Jury Members Mattia Pellegrini (European Commission) and Professor Dr Karel Van Acker (KU Leuven) as well as Amina Langedijk (IMA-Europe).



Winners of the Recognition Award on Public Awareness, Acceptance and Trust: Britta Franzheim and Dr Paul Paez-Maletz from Quarzwerke GmbH, together with Jury Member Boris Barov (Birdlife International) and Mattia Pellegrini (European Commission).



The Winners of the IMA 2016 Biodiversity Award 2016: Cathy Blervacq, Inez Goris and Mark Stulens from Sibelco, surrounded by the independent Jury consisting of (to the left) Prof. Dr Gregory Mahy, Mattia Pellegrini and (to the right) Boris Barov and Prof. Dr Karel Van Acker.



IMA-Europe Safety Award winner Sibelco, with project leaders Ingeborg Pensis and An Buttens together with Mark Stulens (Sibelco) with President of the Safety Jury, Mark Ellis from IMA North America to the left.

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