

Introduction to the Johannes Linneborn Prize and the 2025 winner Laudatio

David Chiaramonti
Chairman of the Nomination Committee

The Johannes Linneborn Prize was established in 1994 on behalf of the European Commission by Dr. Wolfgang Palz to honor an European individual for an exceptional life-time contribution to the field of sustainable energy from biomass. In exceptional cases the award can be granted to a non-European. It is not a reward for scientific excellence only but also technical and managerial merits are appreciated. This prestigious award was connected to the name of Johannes Linneborn, a German biomass pioneer and businessman and the manufacturer of more than 500,000 Imbert small-scale wood gasifiers used to fuel cars, when fossil liquid fuels were scarce. His ideal was a world in which mankind lives in harmony with nature with optimal exploiting of biomass for energy and materials. From a long list of excellent candidates the Prize Committee selected as winner of the Linneborn Prize 20254:

Prof. Martin Junginger
Full Professor Bio-Based Economy Utrecht University

Martin Junginger is internationally recognized for his outstanding contributions to the field of renewable energy, particularly in sustainable bioenergy trade. Since 2001, he has been a leading force in advancing technological innovation and cost reduction in renewable energy systems. As leader of IEA Bioenergy Task 40 (2013–2018), he played a pivotal role in shaping global discussions on biomass sustainability, logistics, and market development. A prolific scholar and thought leader, Martin has authored over 180 peer-reviewed publications, contributed to the IPCC SRRES report, and co-edited influential volumes, including Technological Learning in the Energy Sector. With an H-index of 57 and over 10,000 citations, his work continues to inspire science, policy, and industry worldwide.