



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **The Visionary Winners of the World CleanTech Awards 2022 announced in Abu Dhabi, UAE**

*Powered by CleanTech Business Club, the Awards recognized individuals and companies paving the way for the cleantech transformation during the CleanTech Decade.*

**Abu Dhabi, UAE, January 24, 2023 - The Jury of the World CleanTech Awards (WCA) announced The Winners of the Edition 2022 (WCA2022) during its Black-Tie Gala Ceremony held on January 15, 2023, in a spectacular "Under The Oculus" venue at the Conrad Etihad Towers Hotel Abu Dhabi, UAE, as a special part of the CBC Annual Leadership Forum "Empowering Together The CleanTech Decade!"**

**The CleanTech Business Club (CBC) together with its strategic partners has been honouring visionary individuals since 2017, and for the second time, recognised innovative companies and startups championing the cleantech transformation mission.**

"We are very pleased to congratulate this impressive slate of winners of our World CleanTech Awards and Distinctions. 2023 will be a very important year again for further progress towards our goal of 100% renewable energy (RE) supply, as we have to achieve important reductions of Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2030," said **Prof. Eicke Weber, Chair of the WCA Jury, Chair of the European Solar Manufacturing Council and Former Director of Fraunhofer ISE.** "The WCA Winners and CBC Leadership communities represent a unique worldwide network of like-minded, enthusiastic friends, united behind the common goal, to help by doing what we can for these targets. In addition, this community shares the resources required in order to achieve our climate goals within this decade. Together, we can do it as #TogehtherWeAreStrogner!"

The event took place on the occasion of Abu Dhabi Sustainable Week and World Future Energy summit 2023, two high-level events that highlight the country's ambition to become the leader of the cleantech transformation not only in the Gulf Region but also internationally.

"I am deeply touched and thankful to be honoured by WCA2022 Jury and CBC family with the World CleanTech Award. For well over 20 years, I have been dedicated and committed to Green Energy Transformation as Engineer and entrepreneur against all odds," said **Victoria Kerner-Alexandratou, CEO at WRE Group, Vice President at the German Hellenic Chamber of Industry and Commerce, one of The Winners of WCA2002 Special Lifetime Achievement Award.** "I am particularly pleased because I was selected for the award as a female entrepreneur. I am even more enthusiastic and doubled honoured to receive the recognition for my visionary courage and hard work for a better future in Abu Dhabi, in the UAE, the most progressive country I visited in the last few years!"

“This wonderful award really humbles me and will give me extra energy for the decade of cleantech disruption, to drive the energy transformation in the MENA region but also worldwide. With the right people, values, and never giving up, we can make the impossible possible, together,” added **Cornelius Matthes, CEO at Dii Desert Energy, Investor in emission-free technologies, CBC Chair for the Middle East, The Winner of WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech Influencer of The Year, the main Award for Visionary Individuals.**

The cleantech transformation cannot happen without the participation of the utility sector and its visionary leaders who make their counterparts contagious about clean technologies. This is why WCA2022 Jury recognised EDP Group, a global leader in the renewable energy sector and the world’s fourth-largest wind energy producer, that wants to lead decarbonization and be 100% green by 2030 and Julia Hamm, a visionary leader who spent her career advising and collaborating with utilities, solution providers and government agencies on clean energy policies, strategies and programs.

“The unprecedented challenges the world is facing require that all sectors work together and accelerate efforts to a rapid transformation to net-zero, equitable and resilient societies. The energy sector must play a key role and EDP has committed to a clear and bold investment plan in renewables and innovative solutions aiming for the energy transition, with clean, reliable and affordable energy to all. It is a great honour to have EDP recognized by the World CleanTech Awards for this effort in the Visionary CleanTech Business category.” said **Miguel Stilwell d’Andrade, CEO of EDP, whose company won the main WCA2002 Visionary CleanTech Business of The Year Award.**

“I am honoured to be recognized by the World CleanTech Awards distinguished Jury and CBC community for my accomplishments to date in my career. But there is so much more to be done to ensure everyone has access to carbon-free electricity, and I look forward to continuing to help accelerate the transition,” added **Julia Hamm, Multiple Board Director & Advisor, Former President and CEO of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), Co-Founder of Solar Power International, and one of The Winners of the WCA2002 Special Lifetime Achievement Award.**

During the course of the WCA awards ceremony and its accompanying activities, over 120 visionary leaders from all parts of the globe, agreed unanimously that - despite geopolitical dynamics - by being united by their passion and DNAs, they can and must further drive the positive change together, while empowering people around them as #TogetherWeAreStronger!”

“The WCA2022 Special Lifetime Achievement Award will give me extra clean energy to realize together green energy for all” summarised **Prof. Dr. Ad van Wijk, Professor of Future Energy Systems at TU Delft, CBC Honorary Chair of Green Hydrogen Hub,** a solar pioneer who started his solar adventure in 1984 and since a couple of years is inspiring the world about the green hydrogen economy.

“It was an honour for me to receive this special WCA2022 Tony Seba Distinction. For the past 26 years, I have been working in the solar energy industry. Where I have seen it grow from a very niche energy segment to a disruptive mainstream source of energy,” said **Rami Fedda, Co-Founder & Supply Director at Solar Juice Pty, CBC Chair for Australia & Oceania, Recipient of WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech Disruptor (Tony Seba Distinction).** “In Australia 30GW of Solar is now installed, which is enough to electrify over 10 million homes. This progress gives me great confidence Australia will be 100% powered with Renewables in the very near future. Solar Juice has been a leading player in distributing Solar components across Australia. 1 in 5 Solar Inverters installed on Australian homes have been supplied by Solar Juice.”

The World CleanTech Awards Jury together with CBC leaders recognise the important role of disruptive and innovative startups in the energy and transportation transformation. Therefore, they decided to give special attention to this topic and will be starting this year by selecting dedicated World CleanTech StartUps Awards. Anis Jouini, CEO of CEA-INES (The French Solar Energy Institute), and CBC Chair of CleanTech StartUp Hub, has been nominated to Chair these awards.

“Thank you WCA2022 Jury and CBC leaders for this unique award, and thank you to all those supporting us and cleantech startups in Saudi Arabia and the GCC,” said **Georg Eitelhuber, CEO, NOMADD Desert Solar Solutions, whose company won the main WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech StartUp of The Year Award.** “As Saudi Arabia's first locally developed and commercialised solar technology, NOMADD aims to inspire a new wave of entrepreneurs and inventors. This award helps us show the world what is possible.”

The next World CleanTech Awards - Edition 2023 ceremony will be held in December 2023 in Dubai, UAE, on the occasion of COP28, while the official presentation of the first edition of the World CleanTech StartUps Awards - Edition 2023 will be held in Munich in June 2023 at the 1st World CleanTech Startups Forum, on the occasion of the Smarter E Europe.

For more information about the World CleanTech Awards please visit [www.worldcleantechawards.com](http://www.worldcleantechawards.com)

Contact us: Chair Office @World CleanTech Awards [email us here](mailto:info@worldcleantechawards.com)

Useful Links:

- WCA2022 logo download - [click here](#)
- WCA2022 Video Trailer - see [here](#)
- WCA2022 Flickr Gallery - see [here](#)
- Main photos:
  - WCA2022 Winners & Distinctions Recipients - download [here](#)
  - WCA2022 Black-Tie Gala Ceremony Abu Dhabi Family Photo - download [here](#)
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## **The World CleanTech Award - Edition 2022 (WCA2022)**

### **The Winners and Distinctions' Recipients**

#### **1/ WCA2022 Special Lifetime Achievements Awards (for Visionary Individuals)**

##### **The Winners:**

- Julia Hamm, Multiple Board Director & Advisor, Former President and CEO of the Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA), Co-Founder of Solar Power International
- Victoria Kerner-Alexandratou, CEO at WRE Group, Vice President at German Hellenic Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- Prof. Dr. Ad van Wijk, Professor of Future Energy Systems at TU Delft, CBC Honorary Chair of Green Hydrogen Hub

#### **2/ WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech Influencer of The Year (for Visionary Individuals)**

**The Winner: Cornelius Matthes, CEO at Dii Desert Energy, Investor in emission free technologies, CBC Chair for the Middle East (also Recipient of WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech StartUp Investor (Prof. Eicke R. Weber Distinction))**

##### **Distinctions' Recipients:**

- Visionary CleanTech Scientist Distinction: Dr. Richard Perez, Senior research associate at the University at Albany's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center and his son Mark Perez
- Visionary CleanTech Philanthropist (Solar Lights For Peace Distinction): H.E. Awad Ibn Mohammed Ibn Sheikh Mujrin, Founder of Sustainable Travellers Festival, Promoter of the UAE,
- Visionary CleanTech Investor: Sherif El Gabaly, Chairman & Founder at Enara
- Visionary CleanTech Policy Decision-Maker (Hans Josef-Fell Distinction): Moctar Toure, Founder & CEO at SMART'ÉLEC & PARTNERS, Special Advisor to The President of Mali & Former President of CREE (Power and Water Utilities' Regulation Commission, CBC Chair for Mali
- Visionary CleanTech Disruptor (Tony Seba Distinctions):
  - Dr. Rashi Gupta "Batterywali", Managing Director, Vision Mechatronics; CBC Chair of Energy Storage Hub & Vice-Chair for India
  - Rami Fedda, Co-Founder & Supply Director at Solar Juice Pty; CBC Chair for Australia
- Visionary CleanTech Public Opinion Influencer (Pranav Mehta Distinction): Rajneesh Khattar, Sr. Group Director, Energy & Construction Portfolio, Informa Markets, "Father" of Renewable Energy India Expo Series
- Visionary CleanTech Educator (Mary O'Donnell Distinction): Alexis Graves, International Educational Consultant and Children's Author
- Visionary CleanTech Student (Million Solar Stars Distinction): "Solar Train Inventors" Students at Soshanguve Technical School

- Visionary CleanTech StartUp Founder (Dr Charlie Gay Distinctions):
  - Toddington Harper, CEO at Gridserve
  - Mario Kohle, Founder & CEO at Enpal

### **3/ WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech Business of The Year (for Visionary Well-established Companies)**

**The Winner: EDP Group (also Recipient of WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech Utility Distinction)**

#### **Distinctions' Recipients:**

- Visionary CleanTech Business & Technology Disruptor in Energy Distinctions:
  - Lekela Group
  - AMEA Power
- Visionary CleanTech Business & Technology Disruptor in Transportation Distinction: Hyundai Motors
- Visionary CleanTech Business & Technology Disruptor in Other Disruptive Technologies Distinction: Howden
- Visionary CleanTech Energy Company Distinction: ENOWA (NEOM Company)
- Visionary CleanTech Corporation Distinction: IBM
- Visionary CleanTech R&D Institution Distinction: The Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS)

### **4/ WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech StartUp of The Year**

**The Winner: NOMADD Desert Solar Solutions (also Recipient of WCA2022 Visionary CleanTech StartUp in Energy Distinction)**

#### **Distinctions' Recipients:**

- Visionary CleanTech StartUp in Energy Distinction: Brenmiller Energy
- Visionary CleanTech StartUp in Transportation Distinction: Omega Seiki Mobility
- Visionary CleanTech StartUp in Other Disruptive Technologies: Hydrogen Refueling Solutions