

Finn Awarded 1986 Wallenberg Prize to Mr. Johan E. Gullichsen of Helsinki, Finland



The 1986 Marcus Wallenberg Prize for pioneering scientific research within the field of forest industry today was awarded to Mr. Johan E. Gullichsen of Helsinki, Finland.

Based on the unanimous recommendation of its Selection Committee the Board of Directors of the Marcus Wallenberg Foundation designated Mr. Gullichsen as the Prize winner for "his widely accepted innovations in processing pulp fiber suspensions. His pathbreaking engineering designs provide significant benefits to quality, economy and the environment".

Paper making fibers in a pulp and paper mill are transported, cleaned and mixed with chemicals in a dilute slurry. The reason is that centrifugal pumps, screens and mixers only work if the slurry is dilute. If the fiber slurry had been more concentrated the fibers would entangle and form strong networks.

Mr. Gullichsen has introduced a general method to break down this network locally and momentarily by very strong agitation. Based on this idea he has designed a series of machines which can handle fiber suspensions at higher concentrations than before.

These machines permit the processing of fibers with more compact machinery, thus decreasing the capital cost. The mills will use less water and will thereby create less pollution.

Mr. Gullichsen's inventions therefore contribute significantly to a simplification of the pulp mill engineering.

Mr. Gullichsen, 49, graduated from the Faculty of Chemical Engineering of Abo Academy in Finland, in 1962. After employment at the Finnish Pulp and Paper Research Institute and with the consulting company Ekono Oy in Helsinki, in 1971 he formed the consulting company Arhippainen, Gullichsen and Co.

The Marcus Wallenberg Prize, which is now being awarded for the sixth time, was established in 1980 by Stora Kopparbergs Bergslags Aktiebolag in honour of Dr. Marcus Wallenberg, many years on the Board of the company.

The Prize is awarded to recognize, encourage and stimulate pathbreaking knowledge and/or technical development within the broad fields of interest to the forest industry.

The amount of the Prize is 500,000 Swedish Crowns.

This year's award will be presented by H. M. King Carl XVI Gustaf at the STORA head Office in Falun on September 18, 1986.