

NAWATECHNOLOGIES RECOIT LE PRIX DE L'INNOVATION SPATIALE LORS DE LA CEREMONIE DE L'EXCELLENCE FRANCAISE 2017



Pascal BOULANGER (premier à droite) reçoit le prix de l'innovation spatiale des mains de Thomas Pesquet (au milieu) avec 7 autres start-ups sélectionnées par le CNES (Starburst, Geoflex, Trustme, DelairTech, Eodyn, Airmems, EarthCube) sous la présidence de Messieurs Jean-louis Gall, président du CNES et Maurice Tasler (Président de l'Excellence Française)

Le 7 décembre 2017 – NAWATechnologies, pionnière dans le développement de batteries au carbone ultra rapides a été mise à l'honneur lors de la 9-ième cérémonie de remise des prix de l'Excellence Française dans la catégorie innovation spatiale qui s'est tenue le 7 décembre à la cite des sciences et de l'industrie – le plus grand musée des sciences en Europe, en recevant le prix de l'innovation spatiale des mains de Thomas Pesquet.

Sous la direction de Jean-Yves Le Gall, Président du CNES et de Maurice Tasler, président de l'Excellence Française, l'invité d'honneur de cette cérémonie a été Thomas Pesquet, pilote et astronaute français. Thomas Pesquet revient de 6 mois de voyage à bord de la station spatiale internationale (ISS) dans le cadre de la mission PROXIMA de l'Agence Spatiale Européenne.

NAWATEchnologies a fait partie des huit start-ups françaises récompensées par le prix de l'innovation spatiale, sur proposition du CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales). La Technologie développée par NAWATEchnologies permet de réaliser des batteries ultra-rapides fabriquées uniquement avec du carbone. La structure du matériau d'électrode de ces batteries a aussi révélé des propriétés optiques, électriques et thermiques qui permettent de réaliser des matériaux ultra-absorbants, des fibres et des matériaux d'interface thermique.

En recevant le prix au nom de l'entreprise, Pascal BOULANGER déclare : "nous sommes très honorés de recevoir ce prix de l'excellence Française. C'est un prix prestigieux qui nous positionne parmi les meilleurs de notre domaine. C'est aussi une marque de confiance de la part de l'industrie spatiale, industrie très exigeante. Ce prix nous invite à pousser plus loin encore les limites de notre technologie et nous rassure dans la vision technologique que nous partageons. C'est d'autant plus apprécié que c'est la seconde fois que nous sommes primés, après 2014 suite au concours Mondial de l'innovation"

Ulrik Grape, qui a récemment rejoint NAWATEchnologies en tant que Directeur Général, avec ses vingt années d'expérience dans le management de start-up dans le domaine des batteries Lithium rajoute : "Ce prix spécial est un grand honneur pour nous et récompense l'excellent travail réalisé par l'équipe de NAWATEchnologies. Le domaine de l'exploration spatiale est particulièrement excitant pour les start-ups et c'est un nouvel exemple de la capacité de notre technologie à adresser différents marchés. Je suis particulièrement heureux de travailler aujourd'hui en France, où j'apprécie la qualité de vie mais aussi la grande qualité du travail qui y est réalisé. C'est un honneur de promouvoir l'excellence française par l'entremise de NAWATEchnologie. ».

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<http://www.nawatechnologies.com/nawatechnologies-recoit-prix-de-linnovation-spatiale-lors-de-ceremonie-de-lexcellence-francaise-2017/>

<http://excellencefrancaise.com/fr/laureats/2017-laureats/palmares-special-2017/>

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NAWA TECHNOLOGIES HONOURED IN THE FIELD OF SPATIAL INNOVATION AT THE 2017 FRENCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Pascal BOULANGER (first from right) receives the Spatial Innovation prize from Thomas Pesquet (in the middle), with 7 other start-up founders (Starburst, Geoflex, Trustme, DelairTech, Eodyn, Airmems, EarthCube) with Jean-louis Gall, CNES president and Maurice Tasler (President Excellence Française)

December 7th 2017 - NAWA Technologies, a pioneering company based in Aix-en-Provence that has developed the next generation of ultra-capacitor – the Ultra Fast Carbon Battery – has been honoured at the ninth annual French Excellence Awards in the field of Spatial Innovation.

Recognising the latest in scientific advancements, the awards took place in Paris last night at the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie – the largest science museum in Europe. NAWA Technologies was marked out for its potential as a key supplier of innovative energy storage, black coatings and thermal management solutions for the space industry.

Presented by Jean-Yves Le Gall, President of CNES – the French national space agency – the special guest for the evening was Thomas Pesquet, French aerospace engineer, pilot, and European Space Agency astronaut. Pesquet spent six months on board the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Proxima mission of the European Space Agency (ESA).

NAWA Technologies was one of only eight pioneering French companies singled out by the Awards for a special prize in Spatial Innovation, set up in collaboration with the CNES. NAWA's energy storage system uses a unique combination of carbon nanotubes and a very special coating, creating the Ultra Fast Carbon Battery, an ultra capacitor that is five times more powerful than existing ultra capacitors. It can be charged and discharged in seconds for up to a million cycles.

Receiving the award on behalf of NAWA Technologies, Pascal Boulanger said: "I am honoured and humbled: *L'Excellence Française* (French Excellence) are highly prestigious awards that mark out the very best in the industry. For our team to be recognized for the potential that our energy storage technology brings to the space industry makes us all very proud indeed – and demonstrates the vision that we collectively share. It is also highly appreciated as this is the second time we have received this prize which make us unique in the list of previous winners."

Ulrik Grape has recently joined NAWA Technologies as CEO, bringing over 20 years' experience in start-up and lithium-ion battery companies. Previously EVP of solid-state lithium-ion battery company SEEO in California, Grape was also CEO of EnerDel, one of the early leaders in lithium-ion batteries. He has worked with major automotive OEMs including Volvo Cars, Think and VanHool and Compaq, Apple and Sagem in the portable electronics industry.

Ulrik Grape said: "This special prize is a great honour and testament to the hard work of a very skilled team who, in a relatively short time, has developed a genuinely pioneering energy storage solution. As someone who has recently moved to France from the US to join this talented organization, this is a unique and inspiring award which will no doubt propel our business. The field of space exploration is hugely important and exciting – and is another example of how our technology can be applied to a wide variety of sectors. Thank you to everyone at *L'Excellence Française* – NAWA Technologies has every intention of living up to your expectations."

About NAWA Technologies

Target markets for NAWA include transportation (from automotive to maritime to personal mobility) and smart energy grids (helping to manage renewable energy flows), but NAWA is also developing NAWA Shell, a structural energy storage for composite materials, allowing cars and aircraft to have batteries directly embedded in their body or wings.

The space industry is a potential area of implementation for NAWA Technologies, its ultra capacitors replacing rocket stage separator activators (a project supported by ESA) or used as very stable source of power in new satellites, space stations or space exploration craft.

Other areas of potential development include using NAWA Technologies' base material – the second blackest body in the world with 99.6% optical absorption rate – in space telescopes to improve the resolution, another project currently supported by CNES. NAWA is also working on the development of cutting edge thermal interfaces which could guide heat towards distant cold points. This could potentially be used on space capsule heat shields.

Outside of the space industry and in the short term, NAWA Technologies' new Ultra Fast Carbon Batteries offer two major solutions. As replacements for existing ultracapacitors, they enable faster charging of electricity. When combined with existing lithium-ion batteries – which boast greater energy density – or hydrogen fuel cells, they can provide more power and extend a product's lifetime.

In the long term, the possibilities offered by NAWA Technologies' Ultra Fast Carbon Battery could enable the company to develop hybrid ultracapacitor cells with energy densities approaching those of lithium-ion batteries but with much faster charging times.

NAWA Technologies has developed its own specialised nano-manufacturing process and has already entered low volume pilot manufacturing. The next step for NAWA Technologies and its partners is to fully industrialise this process.

NAWA Technologies COO and one of the original founders is Pascal Boulanger, who spent 20 years at the CEA (French Atomic and Alternative Energies Organisation), working across a variety of fields including nuclear energy, solar photovoltaics and smart grids. In 2008, he joined one of the first R&D teams in Europe working on new nanocarbon structures: carbon nanotubes and graphene.

Within two years the team of researchers had shown that nanomaterials could be produced on a large scale and at a competitive cost. And in 2013 NAWA Technologies was born, spun off from the CEA, creating 25 jobs in Rousset, in the south of France.

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<http://www.nawatechnologies.com/en/nawa-technologies-honoured-in-the-field-of-spatial-innovation-at-the-2017-french-excellence-awards/>

<http://excellencefrancaise.com/fr/laureats/2017-laureats/palmares-special-2017/>

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