

Ricky's Afterthought:

The rationale for establishing AMPERE Awards

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At one of our Management Committee (MC) meetings in Delft, we discussed the rationale of issuing awards at our biennial international conferences. The rationale behind awards is very simple. We wish to recognise eminent scientists, engineers, and indeed other disciplines too, in the field of RF or Microwave heating because of the excellent work they have carried out over the years. Further, AMPERE also wishes to acknowledge younger researchers who are in the process of establishing a name in our domain of work.

Every association *worth its salt** issues awards to their members. The IEEE, NASA, IET, MRS, Institute of Physics, Royal Society and many European bodies or companies all issue annual awards to recognise outstanding achievements in a number of areas. These are not only national awards, for example, the Institute of Physics awards the Isaac Newton Medal to recognise international physicists.

The decision to introduce a number of awards is not only prestigious but signals the maturity of an association from its embryonic stage to a fully-fledged entity which is internationally recognised. In our case although AMPERE is a European based association its members span the five continents and participation in its biennial meeting is broad and wide. After the first conference entitled Microwave and High Frequency Heating held at St John's College, Cambridge, UK in 1986, where just over fifty persons participated, it has been run every two years and we now have an active MC of eighteen eminent scientists and engineers and its biennial meetings attract on average well over 100 participants.

In the early days of our association, the only recognition we bestowed on anyone was the Fellowship which I started in the mid-nineties, and it was left to myself as President on whom to bestow such an award. Further, just prior to the conference at Cracow, Poland, I put forward the idea of a new award, the "AMPERE Medal" for outstanding

contributions in the field of Industrial Microwave or RF Heating. It was to be the highest honour that our organization could offer, and was given to an individual of considerable gravitas who had worked tirelessly promoting the use of RF/microwave energy. It is not intended for a young researcher who is in the process of establishing a name in the field. The AMPERE Medal idea was accepted by the MC but there were no formal procedures for deciding who would be the recipient.

At our meeting in Delft it was decided to formalize the procedure for nominating and awarding these honours and also to introduce a third award for a most promising young researcher. I was given the task of establishing firm criteria for all three awards which will come into force at our next biennial meeting in Spain in September 2019 under the auspices of Professor Jose Catala-Civera and his team at the Universitat Politècnica de València.

At our meeting in Delft, we established guidelines which I am in the process of implementing in order to come up with a set of procedures as to who would participate in these procedures together with appropriate time-tables. I invite any AMPERE member who wishes to contribute to this process to email me their views, and I will take these into consideration, however, members of the MC will receive draft reports of my current thinking within the next few months.

It is interesting to add that Prof. Jon Binner, whose AMPERE Fellowship was announced at our Delft meeting this year, was so delighted when he learned of his award that on receiving the certificate promised, prompted by our President I hasten to add, to edit his post-nominal letters to include "*Fellow of AMPERE*".

* By the way, the expression "*worth its salt*" may have its origin in the fact that Roman soldiers were given an allowance of salt as part of their pay.