

Press release

New semiconductor material attracts young talents to Villach

A race around the world, with international specialists and students from twelve different countries: Infineon Villach is currently the hotspot for the energy-saving chips of the future.

Villach, 2nd March 2018 – “Ready, SiC, Go!” This Infineon race is no ordinary race; instead of the fastest legs, it's all about the brightest minds and best ideas. The global competition “Infineon’s Incredible SiC Race”, initiated by Infineon Austria, is an innovative approach to attract prospective employees. It focuses on the new semiconductor material silicon carbide (SiC). The final stage took place at the Infineon site in Villach this week.

Sixty-five students from twelve different countries - including Austria, Italy, Germany, Denmark, the USA, China and Brazil - and more than 20 universities were hosted by Infineon from February 26th to March 2nd, 2018. In the context of a week-long “WinterSchool”, students attended lectures held by international experts in the silicon carbide field. They also had the opportunity to find out more about Infineon and Carinthia. The winners of the “SiC Race”, who were announced today, are from the University of Bayreuth (Germany). Sabine Herlitschka, CEO of Infineon Austria, explained: “As a major development and innovation site within the Group, Infineon Villach has been working with new semiconductor technologies for quite some time. We see enormous potential for growth in this area and the Group has invested in a global competence center for new semiconductor materials in Villach. The main focus here is on know-how as the key to success. For companies, this also means bringing in fresh input and new ideas from ‘outside the box’. We host exceptional activities such as the ‘SiC Race’ to bring innovative minds and ideas together.”

Experts from America and Japan

The top experts in the field of silicon carbide research are James A. Cooper from Purdue University in Santa Fe (USA), Tsunenobu Kimoto from Kyoto University (Japan), Ulrike Grossner from the ETH (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) Zurich (Switzerland), and Josef Lutz from the Technical University of Chemnitz (Germany). All four were present in Villach as lecturers at the WinterSchool. James A. Cooper stated: “Silicon carbide represents the next generation of semiconductor power devices. I’m especially excited to participate in this year’s WinterSchool, as it brings together experts and students from around the world. The rapid growth of the field has created an urgent need for young scientists. Infineon is recognized as a world leader in SiC power devices, and their CoolSiC™ power MOSFETs are the most advanced chips on the market today. With their strong commitment to SiC technology, I only expect their dominance to grow in the future.”

Global competence center in Villach

The Infineon Group has invested in a global competence center for the research, development and production of silicon carbide semiconductors in Villach. These energy-saving chips are developed and manufactured in Villach on the basis of silicon carbide

technology. They register up to 80 percent lower energy losses during current conversion and enable reductions in size and system costs while providing identical power output. In so doing, they provide the basis for highly efficient, smaller and lighter systems solutions in the fields of energy conversion and electric mobility. Infineon's SiC energy-saving chips are already in use today, e.g. in rapid charging stations for electric cars and in photovoltaic power plants.

