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Prestigious prize awarded to Sandvik R&D Director

The Swedish Royal Institute of Technology's 2011 Gold Medal For Industry Collaboration has been awarded to Dr. Olle Wijk, Vice President and Head of R&D and Technology for Sandvik Materials Technology.

Olle Wijk receives the prize in recognition of his successful contributions to the collaboration between industry and academia and he will be presented with the award during the Royal Institute of Technology's inauguration ceremony at Stockholm City Hall on November 18th this year.

A great honor

The news was announced through the Royal Institute of Technology's website during Tuesday afternoon and Olle Wijk, who didn't expect to receive the prize, naturally felt much honored:

– It is with a great sense of pride that I accept this award. The fact that it originates from the Royal Institute of Technology, my old university where I have also been active during my career, warms my heart that little extra, says Olle Wijk, whose company Sandvik is actively supporting a large number of research projects at university level, as well as several Doctoral Students.

Olle Wijk continues:

– The Royal Institute of Technology has a very strong environment for research and education which is based on high competence. Within Sandvik we have a very extensive research and development operation and our contacts with universities over the years have been, and remain, critical to our recruitment of talented employees, says Olle Wijk, who has always emphasized the importance of a close collaboration between industry and academia, as the value generated from such cooperation is greater than what either part would be capable of on their own.

The fourth recipient of the award

The committee awarding the Royal Institute of Technology's gold medal for industry collaboration aims to identify and reward good performance in the subject area and Olle Wijk is the fourth recipient of the award.

– In his role as Research Director, Olle Wijk has successfully worked with industrial collaboration. He did this already as a Professor at the Royal Institute of Technology. He himself has successfully moved between the two environments and has thus been a rolemodel for modern interaction between industry and academia, says Professor Torsten Cegrell, Chairman of the award committee and instigator of the prize.

We at Sandvik are proud to have Olle Wijk within our ranks as a scientist, but even more so as a colleague, and congratulate him to the great honor that has been bestowed upon him.

The award committee's motivation for its choice:

"In his role as research director, Olle Wijk successfully worked with industrial collaboration. He did this even as a professor at the Royal Institute of Technology. Sandvik is through his efforts known to have a very close and efficient collaboration with the university in general and the Royal Institute of Technology, in particular, in both educational and research issues. Olle Wijk has during his career created lasting industrial collaboration and the fact that he moved between both environments has made him a role model for a modern interaction between industry and academia. Olle Wijk is since 1999 member of the Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA)."

Facts about Dr. Olle Wijk:

Olle Wijk was born in 1951 in Sandviken. He started his research career at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm, Sweden, in the early 1970's. In May 1980 he took his Ph.D. in Process Metallurgy and then started working at Sandvik as Process Developer in metallurgy. From 1987 and nine years on Olle Wijk had an University Professorship in Process Metallurgy at KTH, Stockholm. In 1996 he returned to Sandvik, and since 2005 he is Executive Vice President and Head of R&D Sandvik Materials Technology.

Footnote: The award was previously called the Royal Institute of Technology's Gold Medal in Industrial Systems Technology

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