Pioneer prize goes to matriq AG

26 August 2021   13:16

Zurich/St.Gallen - The St.Gallen-based start-up matriq has been awarded the ZKB Pioneer Prize Technopark 2021. The company has developed a forgery-proof marking solution for plastic parts that can be directly installed in manufacturing machines.

In this year's ZKB Pioneer Prize Technopark, matriq AG has been named as one of the winners. The award ceremony took place on Wednesday at Technopark Zurich, with the St.Gallen-based start-up founded in 2019 banking a check for 98,696.04 Swiss francs. According to a press release, this unusual sum corresponds to 10,000 times the value of pi squared, which is supposed to symbolize strength, foresight and fascination.

With its patented technology, Matriq marks plastic parts clearly and individually in a forgery-proof way, directly in the manufacturing machine. This renders downstream marking processes superfluous, in this way creating a more cost-effective, faster and safer process, the press release states. Traceability is especially important for medical, safety-critical and particularly high-quality objects made from plastic.

The judging panel were impressed by three aspects of the matriq solution: simple integration of the marking technology in the production process, the accessibility of the technology for various types of polymers and production processes in addition to its high relevance for various application areas.

"Winning the pioneer prize is a huge honor for us", says André Bernard, co-founder and CEO of matriq AG, in the press release. "The award is also a sign of recognition of the pioneering spirit and innovative performance in Eastern Switzerland. It motivates young people to find the courage to set up spin-offs and establish their own start-ups", he adds.

Other awards went to Planted Foods AG from Kemptthal in the canton of Zurich, which develops and produces plant-based, meat-free alternatives to meat, as well as to FenX. The Zurich-based company manufactures insulation materials from industrial waste. Both firms will receive 10,000 Swiss francs in prize money.

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