

Iris Weise-Rosch  
Dyckerhoff  
Communications & Marketing



# Dyckerhoff Sponsorship Award, focus on new building materials

AT THE AWARD CEREMONY HELD IN WIESBADEN IN MID-APRIL, TWO GRADUATES FROM THE UNIVERSITIES OF WEIMAR AND KARLSRUHE RECEIVED THE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESES. SINCE LAST YEAR, THE AWARD HAS FOCUSED ON SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.

First awarded in 2016, the Dyckerhoff Award was realigned last year to focus on sustainability topics such as low-clinker cements and concretes and their application in the context of the energy transition, the recycling of building materials, or innovative processes to optimize cementitious construction materials. It was also significantly expanded, going from the initial four universities of applied sciences in Hesse to more than 20 German universities and polytechnics. On Friday, April 11, 2025, the “new” Dyckerhoff Award was presented for the first time, with a sponsorship totaling 3,000 euros.

Among the nine outstanding bachelor’s and master’s theses submitted by professors from eight polytechnics and universities, two candidates won first place after being evaluated by the 11 members of the jury: Moritz Nicolai, a graduate of Bauhaus University Weimar, and Marius Schmitt, a graduate of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). In addition to the jury members, employees from Dyckerhoff’s Research, Quality, and Technology departments were also present, along with other guests.

After being welcomed by Dyckerhoff CEO Patrick Klein and introductory remarks on the new format and evaluation process by the jury president, Thomas Sievert, each of the two awardees gave a brief presentation of their work.



1. THE JURY, WINNERS, AND MANAGEMENT AT THE CEREMONY FOR THE NEW DYCKERHOFF SPONSORSHIP AWARD (FROM LEFT): MATTHIAS MÜLLER (SUBSTITUTING FOR PROFESSOR HORST-MICHAEL LUDWIG), PROFESSOR MANUELA S. KILLIAN, THOMAS SIEVERT, MARCUS PAUL, MORITZ NICOLAI, MARIUS SCHMITT, PATRICK KLEIN, STEFAN HAINER, AND FRANK DEHN



2 - 3. DYCKERHOFF CEO PATRICK KLEIN AND JURY PRESIDENT THOMAS SIEVERT PRESENT THE AWARDS

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Moritz Nicolai's master's thesis focused on "Factors Influencing the Performance of Calcined Clay." Specifically, he examined how to reduce the clinker factor in cements based on tests on various binder systems and the use of locally available raw materials. He also highlighted how the results of his research could be applied in practice.

The topic of Marius Schmitt's master's thesis, who was also awarded, was "Experimental Investigations into the Influence of the Composition of Treated Crushed Sand as a Concrete Additive on the Long-Term Concrete Performance" This is a key subject in terms of conserving primary resources and reducing the clinker factor in cement. In his research, he analyzed the properties relevant to the durability and long-term performance of recycled concretes, but also pointed out the limitations of their use.

After the presentation of both awards, Professor Frank Dehn from KIT thanked Dyckerhoff on behalf of all the professors from the participating universities for the opportunities it provides to students in bachelor's and master's programs, as well as for the interesting guided tour of the Wilhelm Dyckerhoff Institute led by Stefan Hainer and Marcus Paul prior to the award ceremony. He also expressed his en-

thusiasm for the next round of candidates. Thomas Sievert, manager of Dyckerhoff's Quality and Technical Consulting department, followed up on his earlier remarks at the event with a preview of the next call for submissions, which will begin in the summer. Unlike this year, going forward the company would like to

divide the award between bachelor's and master's theses if there are enough applications.

With this award, the only one of its kind in Germany, Dyckerhoff aims to strengthen the collaboration with polytechnics and universities. We honor students and graduates of disciplines related to building materials for their outstanding achievements in making construction with cementitious materials more environmentally friendly. We firmly believe that open discussions between research and practice are a key driver for developing sustainable construction materials and innovative processes, enabling us to successfully meet current and future challenges on the path to a climate-neutral construction industry.



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