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Newsletter

## Circuit Foil Luxembourg wins the Fedil's Industrial Innovation First Prize for the completion of its "copper foam" project

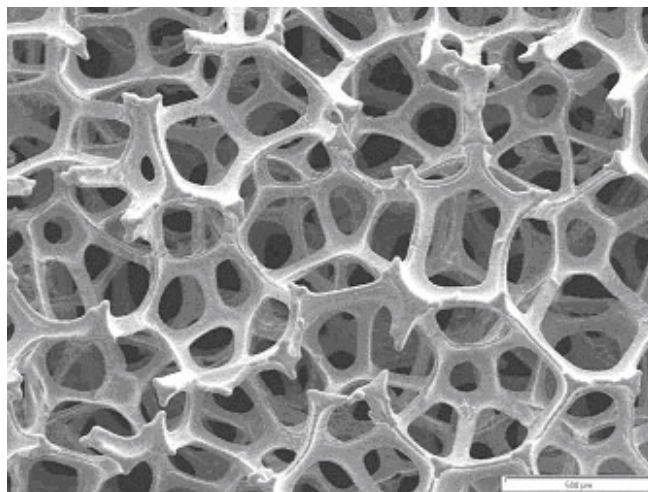
In early December Circuit Foil Luxembourg - a subsidiary of the Arcelor Group with an excellent worldwide reputation as a producer of copper foil for the electronics industry, mainly for laminates used in the manufacture of printed circuit boards - was awarded the Industrial Innovation First Prize of the Fedil (Federation of Luxembourg Industrialists) for the completion of its "copper foam" project.

The financial, scientific and logistical support from the Ministries of Economic Affairs and of Research as well as from the Fedil, the Chamber of Commerce and Luxinnovation, made a decisive contribution to the completion of this very successful research project conducted by Circuit Foil.

### The "copper foam" project

The "copper foam" project was initiated on the Circuit Foil production site at Wiltz three years as a "Eureka" European research program.

Copper foam is an open-pore, three-dimensional structure:



By creating this unique and new material, Circuit Foil aims to diversify its product range.

The objective of the project, which will have lasted three years and is due to end on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002, was to develop an efficient and above all economical industrial process that enables a continuous strip of highest-quality, pure-copper foam to be produced by electrolysis and heat treatment. This material is notably intended for use in making a "charge collector" for rechargeable accumulators capable of meeting more effectively very high electric current requirements. It is worth recalling that the demands placed on batteries used in applications ranging from the hybrid/electric car, through an array of industrial equipment, to portable computers are constantly increasing and that these developments will depend on the progress to be made in rechargeable accumulators.

## The Industrial Innovation Prize

The Fedil created the Industrial Innovation Prize in 1982 in order to encourage creativity and innovation in companies, schools and among the public at large. The Prize is aimed at any person or any group of persons domiciled or working in Luxembourg and at Luxembourg citizens working or studying abroad. It is intended to reward innovators employed by companies, freelance innovators and young researchers.

The award of the Industrial Innovation Prize - which alternates yearly with the Environment Prize for Industry - is subject to two criteria: the candidate projects must be outstanding in terms of their innovative and original character and they must be economically beneficial to the Luxembourg industry.



*The diploma award ceremony was held in the presence of André Laux, President of Circuit Foil, Michel Wurth, Senior Executive Vice President, Finance and Management by Objectives of Arcelor and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Circuit Foil, Henri Grethen, Luxembourg's Minister of Economic Affairs, Marc Kuhn, Senior Project Manager Circuit Foil, and Charles Krombach, Chairman of the Fedil (from l. to r.).*