

Proclamation of the Gaston Planté Medal Committee

In the eve of the first LABAT conference held in 1989, on the initiative of the Organizing Committee of the conference, the Board of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences established an award—a medal in honour of the inventor of the lead–acid battery, Gaston Planté. We wanted to pay tribute to this great and modest French scientist. This decision of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences met the approval and the support of the French Academy of Sciences.

We adopted a two-step procedure for selecting the Gaston Planté medallists in an attempt to guarantee maximum objectivity of the selection. As a first step, all members of International Advisory Committee, a total of 33 scientists and experts on lead–acid batteries from all over the world, were asked to send their rating of the three most distinguished scientists who should compete for this award. The Nominating Committee summarizes all proposals and nominated the three highest ranked candidates for this award.

This year, we received proposals for 19 battery scientists and experts to be considered for nomination. The highest number of rating points gained:

1. David Prengaman
2. Robert Nelson
3. Dietrich Berndt
4. Masaharu Tsubota

Dr. Berndt and Dr. Tsubota received equal number of rating points and were therefore both of them nominated.

The nomination itself is a grant of honor and an acknowledgement of worldwide recognition.

After that, the International Planté Medal Committee comprising 15 scientists from 14 countries, elected by secret vote the new recipient of the award among the nominees. After a challenging vote this year Dr. David Prengaman won the competition and he is the 2002 year recipient of the Gaston Planté Medal.

At the beginning of this year, the Organizing Committee of the LABAT'02 conference recommended the management of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to donate the Gaston Planté Medal to ILZRO for their outstanding contribution to promoting the development of the science and technology of lead–acid batteries for many years now. This award should be associated with Dr. Jerome Cole, the President of ILZRO, who has ably and successfully led the Association over many years, Dr. Robert Nelson, who was the founder of the first Advanced Lead–Acid Battery Consortium and Dr. Patrick Moseley, who managed and developed further the second and the third ALABC programs, Dr. David Rand, who was the manager of the ALABC program for several months. We must give all these gentlemen full credit for their invaluable work to the advantage of the lead–acid battery. This medal should go also to the whole staff of ILZRO.

On behalf of the Gaston Planté Medal Committee and the Organizing Committee of LABAT'02, I want to congratulate heartily Dr. David Prengaman and the staff of ILZRO on receipt of this prestigious medal and wish them much health and a lot of success and creative power in their future activities.

D. Pavlov
(Chairman of LABAT'02 Conference)