TANTALUM-NIOBIUM
INTERNATIONAL STUDY CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Short list announced for the Anders Gustaf Ekeberg Tantalum Prize 2019

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The Anders Gustaf Ekeberg Tantalum Prize ('Prize') is awarded annually for outstanding contribution to the advancement of the knowledge and understanding of the element tantalum (Ta).

Announcing the 2019 short list, the Director of the T.I.C., Roland Chavasse, said that the long-term future of the tantalum market will depend on technology-driven innovations and the Prize will encourage research and development. "Winners of the Anders Gustaf Ekeberg Tantalum Prize will be acknowledged as true leaders in this field", he added.

The award is administered by the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.), the global trade body representing the tantalum and niobium industry.

The seven publications on the short list show the great versatility of tantalum:

- Modelling fuzzy logic using tantalum-based multi-state memristive devices
- Hydrometallurgical recycling of epoxy-coated solid tantalum capacitors
- A study of the metallurgical properties of Ti-28 tantalum alloy
- Creating TaN electrodes for use with tantalum-based memristive devices
- Analysis of additively manufactured parts using Ti-25Ta alloy
- Tantalum-yttrium oxide coatings for high-temperature Bragg (dielectric) mirrors
- A study of the properties of tantalum when used in the additive manufacturing process

The winner will be chosen by the independent panel of experts and the Prize medal, made from pure tantalum metal, will be awarded at the T.I.C.'s 60th General Assembly (annual conference) in Hong Kong, in October 2019. The T.I.C.'s conference is the largest annual gathering of tantalum and niobium industry leaders, with delegates from every sector of the global industry.

The 2018 winner was Dr Yuri Freeman for his landmark treatise "Tantalum and Niobium-Based Capacitors". Dr Freeman is the Director of Advanced Research in the Tantalum (Ta) business unit and a member of the Advanced Technology Group at KEMET Electronics.

Full details of the short list, including links to the publications, are available at https://tanb.org/view/shortlist2018

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About Dr Anders Gustaf Ekeberg

Born in 1767, Anders Gustaf Ekeberg was a Swedish scientist, mathematician, and poet. He became a professor at Uppsala University in 1794 and initially made his name by developing advanced analytical techniques and by proposing Swedish names for the common chemical elements according to the principles set out by the "father of modern chemistry" Antoine-Laurent de Lavoisier. Ekeberg discovered the oxide of tantalum in 1802, isolating it from samples of two different minerals, specifically, tantalite from Kimito, Finland and yttrotantalite from Ytterby, Sweden.

According to Ekeberg's friend, the chemist Jacob Berzelius, Ekeberg chose the name 'tantalum' partly to reflect the difficulties that he had experienced in reacting the new element with common acids and partly out of his passion for ancient Greek literature. Tantalus was a demi-god who killed and cooked his son, Pelops, and as punishment was condemned to stand in a pool of water beneath a fruit tree with low branches, with the fruit ever eluding his grasp, and the water always receding before he could take a drink.

Ekeberg suffered from poor health in later years and in February 1813 he died, unmarried, at the age of 46.

About the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.)

Since its inception the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C. or the Association) has grown and developed to encompass the changing nature of the tantalum and niobium industries and will continue in the same spirit in facing future challenges. After initially focusing on just tantalum, in 1986 niobium joined the association and today our membership represents every aspect of the global tantalum and niobium industries.

The Association:

- An international, non-profit association founded in 1974 under Belgian law.
- Around 90 member companies from over 25 countries involved with all aspects of the tantalum and niobium industry supply chain (including mining, trading, processing, recycling, metal fabrication, capacitor manufacturing, medical…).
- The Association is run by its Executive Committee. This Committee reflects the range of activities of the members and covers the geographic spread of the membership, too. Presidents have been drawn from all sectors of the industry and from many parts of the world. Elections are held annually.

Objectives:

- Increase awareness and promote the remarkable properties of tantalum and niobium in all their forms.
- To disseminate information on any matter affecting that industry, excluding price and related information and any other proprietary information.
- Address major issues and challenges facing its industry such as conflict minerals legislation, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), and the transport of naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM).
- Organize a General Assembly of the membership in October each year for business and technical presentations. Typically, this includes a field trip to a member company or associated industrial facility.
- Publish a quarterly Bulletin newsletter containing interesting and informative articles about the T.I.C. and the global tantalum and niobium industries.
- Collect statistics from member companies (via an independent company to ensure confidentiality) on tantalum and niobium production, shipments and consumption. Participating members receive quarterly statistics updates.

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