



International Dark-Sky Association

“... to preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies”

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Press Release:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Germany Sweeps the IDA Europe Galileo Award and Outdoor Lighting Award at the 9th European Symposium of the Protection of the Night Sky in Armagh, Ireland

October 4, 2009 – The Irish Light Pollution Awareness Committee (ILPAC), the IDA Ireland Section, hosted the 9th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky at the Marketplace Theater in Armagh, Northern Ireland from September 17 – 19, 2009. At the event the International Dark-Sky Association European Executive Committee honored German astronomer, Dr. Andreas Hänel, with the prestigious Galileo Award and German company dial4light with the Outdoor Lighting Award.

The Galileo Award, which recognizes excellence in efforts to control light pollution reduction on the European continent, was awarded to Dr. Hänel due to his work as leader of the workgroup Dark Sky Germany, an IDA Affiliate and Section of the German Astronomical Association. Dr. Hänel, who is director of the Museum at Schölerberg Planetarium in Osnabrück, has been a dark sky advocate for over 10 years. In addition to campaigning for smart lighting, Andreas has been involved in night sky brightness monitoring, beginning with a DSLR camera he has recently been using various sky quality meters (SQM) for calibration on a European whole. Recently his work has taken him into studying the impacts of LEDs on the outdoor environment and visual acuity. He has actively taken this message on the road, attending and speaking at numerous international conferences. A previous winner of the Galileo Award stated “that all dark-sky movements need members who can appeal both to the emotions and principles of the public in order to convince them that action is necessary: but without a solid basis and real 'know-how', our emotions are just that: emotions. Dr. Hänel fits perfectly within this model of nighttime preservation activists.

Previous winners of the prestigious award include:

2008: Christopher Baddiley, United Kingdom, for his efforts in skyglow modeling
2007: Pierantonio Cinzano, Italy, for his work on the “First World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness”

IDA Offices

Washington, DC, USA | Hever, Belgium | Turrumurra, New South Wales, Australia



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2006: Robert (Bob) Mizon, United Kingdom, for his efforts with the UK's Campaign for Dark Skies

2005: Fabio Falchi, Italy, for his efforts with CieloBuio

2004: René Kobler, Switzerland, for his efforts with Dark Sky Switzerland

2003: Diego Bonata, Italy, for his efforts with CieloBuio

Germany also won the Outdoor Lighting Design Award for the dial4light system. Dial4light is a streetlight on demand system. Dörentrup, a small village in northwestern Germany, decided that in an effort to conserve energy, they would turn off their streetlights from 11p.m. until 6a.m. Concerned for safety, local Dieter Grote, designed a system that allowed residents of the town to register their cell phone within the system, which then allowed residents to call in and turn on the lights. Lights then stayed on for fifteen minutes which allowed the pedestrian to safely navigate the street when the streetlights then turned off again. Thus, the system promotes light where needed, when needed, and for the amount of time needed.

For more information on:

IDA visit www.darksky.org

9th European Symposium visit www.lightpollution2009.eu

ILPAC www.ilpac.eu

Dark Sky Germany <http://www.lichtverschmutzung.de/>

dial4light www.dial4light.de

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