

## Press release

### **FENECON Named “Innovator of the Year” for the Third Consecutive Time – A First in TOP 100 History**

- “Innovator of the Year”: Provider of energy storage systems and smart energy management solutions impresses jury once again
- Third consecutive victory – an unprecedented achievement in the history of the innovation competition
- Award ceremony took place at the German SME Summit on June 27, 2025

**Iggensbach, June 30, 2025** – FENECON, a leading hardware and software specialist for energy storage solutions serving residential, commercial, and industrial sectors, has once again impressed the TOP 100 jury. The panel named the mid-sized company from Iggensbach (Bavaria) “Innovator of the Year” in the largest category of the competition, reserved for companies with more than 200 employees. This marks FENECON’s third consecutive win in the industry-spanning C category. Winning the “Innovator of the Year” title three times in a row is unprecedented in the history of the TOP 100 competition. Science journalist and mentor Ranga Yogeshwar congratulated FENECON on this “hat trick” during the German SME Summit in Mainz on June 27 and presented the award.

The innovation competition, now in its 32nd year, focuses on whether the innovations of participating SMEs result from a structured innovation management process that is repeatable and successful in the market. Participants are evaluated across four key categories: innovation-friendly top management, a culture conducive to creative thinking, effective development processes and organizational structures, as well as external engagement and receptiveness to novel approaches.

#### **Impressive Platform Approach and Strong Commitment to Sustainability**

The jury was particularly impressed by “the company’s remarkable platform approach and its deeply rooted commitment to sustainability.” FEMS, an open-source energy management platform developed by FENECON, has proven to be a key competitive advantage by enabling cross-manufacturer integration of various energy sources and consumers. According to the jury, the organizational development launched in 2024 has further strengthened the structure of the company’s innovation management and laid the foundation for sustaining its innovative capabilities for the long term. A central component of this effort was the introduction of the OKR methodology (Objectives

and Key Results). This framework allows for the clear definition of strategic innovation goals and ensures they are translated across all levels of the organization, where they can be continuously and dynamically refined.

### **Distinctive Organizational Structure and Continuously Evolving Innovation Processes**

FENECON's growth trajectory has been accompanied by a sharp increase in personnel. Over the past three years, the company's workforce has expanded from 75 to 350 employees – more than quadrupling in size. "The company's ability to preserve and even enhance its innovative strength amid the significant organizational challenges of such rapid expansion is truly impressive. This success is largely driven by its distinctive organizational design and its continuous advancement of innovation practices," the jury noted. FENECON is also distinguished by its strong market and customer orientation.

### **From a Family-Run Garage Startup to Market and Innovation Leader**

"We're truly overwhelmed. The TOP 100 Award attracts Germany's most innovative companies, and the events bring together incredibly inspiring, visionary people and doers. To be named 'Innovator of the Year' once again is a tremendous honor — one we owe to our fantastic team and our enthusiastic customers," said FENECON's CEO Franz-Josef Feilmeier.

He accepted the award alongside his brother Stefan and his wife Alexandra — both also members of the management board and driving forces behind key innovations in the areas of energy management and team & culture. "From our dad's garage to a third consecutive 'Innovator of the Year' award, the past 14 years since our founding have been incredibly exciting — and our energized journey continues."

### **TOP 100 Selection Process**

In 2025, 262 out of 364 participating medium-sized German companies successfully completed the selection process led by innovation researcher Professor Nikolaus Franke. They were recognized as "Top Innovators 2025" and received the TOP 100 Seal on February 1, 2025. The top three companies in each of the three size categories (A: up to 50 employees, B: 51 to 200, and C: over 200) advanced to the next evaluation round. From this group, the jury selected one winner per category as "Innovator of the Year," with the awards presented on June 27, 2025. The "TOP 100 innovation analysis" focuses on both current performance and future potential. While current innovation achievements are reviewed, equal importance is placed on evaluating innovation-promoting structures. "This allows for an assessment of how systematically a company is aligned with innovation goals and how high its future innovation potential is," states

FENECON's innovation summary. The analysis incorporates over 100 key figures and performance indicators across five categories.

### **From Bavaria to the World: FENECON Targets International Markets**

Following its repeated recognition as one of Germany's most innovative companies, FENECON is now increasingly focused on transferring this success to international markets. With its combination of scalable energy storage systems, open-source energy management solutions, and a strong orientation toward sustainability, the company is well-positioned to address global energy challenges. Together with its growing network of country partners in the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Lithuania and Greece, as well as its U.S. subsidiary FENECON US Inc. in Greenville, South Carolina, FENECON aims to strengthen its international presence by building local partnerships, supporting decentralized energy systems, and adapting its solutions to diverse regulatory and market environments. By applying its innovation-driven approach beyond the German borders, FENECON seeks to contribute meaningfully to the global energy journey and to create added value for partners, customers, and energy systems worldwide - always with the clear vision of a future powered entirely by renewable energy.

**About FENECON**

FENECON is a leading hardware and software specialist for energy storage solutions across residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. All storage systems are powered by FENECON's internally developed energy management system, FEMS, which plays a central role in shaping OpenEMS – the world's most successful open-source energy management platform. The company's broad range of FEMS applications enables grid-supportive energy management and intelligent sector coupling that actively contributes to the energy transition.

The expert in energy storage and energy management ranks among the industry's top innovators and is committed to a future powered entirely by renewable energy. Headquartered in Iggenbach, Bavaria, FENECON employs approximately 350 people and operates additional sites in Deggendorf and Albersdorf (Vilshofen an der Donau), as well as a manufacturing facility in Greenville, South Carolina, USA. FENECON's performance, flexibility, and innovative strength are reflected in numerous industry awards. The company was named "Innovator of the Year" in the TOP 100 competition for German SMEs in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Further recognitions in 2025 include: The smarter E Award in the "Smart Integrated Energy" category for FEMS; the Top Innovation Award from EUPD Research; and the SolarProsumerAward 2024/2025 from EUPD Research in the HEMS and Storage categories. In 2024, FENECON received the Bavarian SME Award and BAYERNS BEST 50. In 2023, accolades included the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Award, the ees Award for the FENECON Industrial L storage system, and the EM-Power Award for the rental storage offering of its subsidiary FERESTO.

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