

News & Views

The Nordic Council's Large Nature and Environmental Prize 1997

The prize was granted to the entrepreneur of the **EDIP-Method** (Environmental Design of Industrial Products), that is **The Institute for Product Development (IPU)**, **Technical University of Denmark**.

This was decided at a meeting in Oslo on 18 September 1997. The prize of 350.000 Dkr was presented at the Nordic Council's session in Helsinki on 12 November, 1997.

The IPU was suggested as award winner because of the institute's leading role in the EDIP-programme. During this programme, methods for **Environmental Assessment of Products** and for **Environmentally Design of Products** were developed. The methodology will be supported by a **Unit Process Data Base** and a **pc-tool** which is still under

preparation in a beta version. The methodology is thoroughly tested by five industrial companies and well documented in publications available both in Danish and English. The individual steps of the life cycle assessment have been made operationable through the creation of a collection of tools allowing for environmental assessment of new products in the design and development stages, and thereby enabling the environmental consequences of a product to enter into the decision making in the same way as other traditional commercial parameters.

The programme has already contributed to environmental improvements in a large number of complex industrial products. The companies Bang & Olufsen, Danfoss, Gram, Grundfos and KEW Industry have

profited from the programme when using the methodology in product development.

The Institute for Product Development has thus provided a significant contribution to solve the theoretical and practical challenge which both the Nordic countries and the rest of the world are facing to reduce the environmental impacts from consumption of products to ensure a sustainable development.

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