

Press release

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EFCE announces 2026 Mixing Awards: Ernest Simon named Young Researcher Award Laureate and E. Hugh Stitt receives Lifetime Recognition Award

The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) and its Working Party on Mixing, together with award sponsors Ekato and Alvin and Helen Nienow, have announced the 2026 laureates of EFCE's two awards in mixing science and technology. The awards will be presented at the 18th European Conference on Mixing (Mixing 18), taking place in Limerick, Ireland, from 30 August to 2 September 2026.

EFCE Young Researcher Award in Mixing 2026: Ernest Simon

EFCE has selected **Dr. Ernest Simon** as the laureate of the **EFCE Young Researcher Award in Mixing 2026**, recognising his excellent PhD thesis work on "*Experimental and numerical study of the mixing of a non-Newtonian fluid*" completed at the Toulouse Biotechnology Institute (TBI) under the supervision of Professor Jérôme Morchain, and Professor Alain Liné and of Dr. Frédéric Augier from IFPEN, Solaize, France, which funded his PhD. Dr. Simon is invited to deliver a scientific presentation during Mixing 18.



Mixing in viscous or non-Newtonian media is key for the development of innovative processes in fields related to the energy transition, decarbonization, and the circular economy, where questions arise regarding technological choices and scale-up for diverse operations, such as fermenters for biofuels or dissolution reactors for plastic recycling. Consequently, there is significant scientific and industrial interest in proposing innovative experimental characterizations of mechanically stirred reactors involving non-Newtonian media and evaluating the behaviour of various numerical models. Ernest Simon conducted experimental campaigns with various advanced techniques (PIV, Stereo-PIV, TOMO-PTV and Lagrangian flow characterisation), which revealed unexpected hydrodynamic behaviours in the presence of shear-thinning rheology and in intermediate ranges of Reynolds number. Simultaneously, he managed numerical studies computed via CFD (LES, RANS). His research provides a particularly strong contribution to the fundamental advancement of experimental methods by the development and application of TOMO-PTV to stirred tanks for understanding of mixing phenomena while maintaining clear relevance to industrial mixing applications. A significant part of his work was also devoted to the development of CFD models for non-Newtonian fluids.

Ernest Simon obtained his Engineering Degree from INSA Lyon, France and his Research Master in Fluid Mechanics and Energy from the University Claude Bernard Lyon 1. Between December 2021 and March 2025 he conducted his PhD work at the Toulouse Biotechnology Institute (TBI, INSA Toulouse) in collaboration with IFP Energies nouvelles, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship during which he continued his research activities on advanced Lagrangian characterisation of mixing flows. He is now going to start a post-doctoral fellowship funded by the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives at the Laboratoire Energie, Mécanique Theorique et Appliquée in Nancy, France.

The award jury noted: "His work best fulfils the objectives of the Award by combining methodological originality, advanced experimental and numerical approaches, and a significant contribution to the fundamental understanding of mixing processes of industrial relevance".

The Award is generously sponsored by **EKATO**. In the past 85 years EKATO has developed to world market leader in stirring and mixing technology for all process-oriented industries.

EKATO

The EKATO GROUP companies offer optimized mixing technology, from molecular, robust and rapidly available industrial agitators over industrial solutions for reactor agitators on sophisticated mixing processes up to complete process plants including automation. EKATO has been family-owned since its foundation in 1933 and is represented worldwide with subsidiaries in Europe, Asia, Australia, South America, South Africa and the USA as well as a network of trading partners. At the state-of-the-art research and development center in Schopfheim, EKATO offers engineering services from process development to process optimization to make customer processes and mixing procedures more reliable and efficient. <https://ekato.com>

Alvin and Helen Nienow Lifetime Recognition Award in Mixing 2026: E. Hugh Stitt

EFCE has also named **Dr. E. Hugh Stitt** as the laureate of the **Alvin and Helen Nienow Lifetime Recognition Award in Mixing 2026**, recognising his outstanding contribution to the advancement of mixing science and technology, and for demonstrating mixing's industrial significance across a long career.

Dr. Stitt is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Johnson Matthey Technology Centre, Billingham, UK, and has led and supported chemical engineering R&D spanning mixing, reaction engineering, process modelling, and industrial measurement methods.



Nominating him for the award, Mark Simmons and Federico Alberini wrote: "Hugh is a *once in a generation industry leader* with an exemplary and sustained record in mixing research with demonstrable global industry impact and in the development of people and capability within Johnson Matthey and in academia."

He said: "I am somewhat overwhelmed that I have been selected for this award, and deeply grateful for the recognition. I have spent my career simply trying to use good science, working with some outstanding scientists and engineers along the way, to solve industrial problems. It is so uplifting to have this recognised as an outstanding achievement by my (albeit younger) peers."

Hugh Stitt is invited to deliver a keynote contribution at Mixing 18 and will receive a cash prize sponsored by Alvin and Helen Nienow.

About Alvin and Helen Nienow: The late Professor Alvin W. Nienow (DSc, FICHEME, FREng) was an active and influential member of the international mixing community for the most part of his career, contributing significantly to mixing science, research and applications. He was a member of the First European Conference on Mixing in 1974 and was always involved in the conference series since then. His commitment to the European mixing community was recognized in 2003 when he was awarded the 2nd LRA in mixing (sponsored by Ekato).

In recognition of the impact that the international and, particularly, the European mixing community had on their lives, Alvin and his wife Helen decided to setup a longterm sponsorship of the LRA in Mixing in 2021.

Ends

Related links

EFCE media centre (<https://www.efce.info/News>)

EFCE Working Party on Mixing (https://efce.info/WP_Mixing.html)

18th European Conference on Mixing (<https://mixing18.dryfta.com/index.php>)

Notes to media

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About chemical engineers

Chemical, biochemical and process engineering is the application of science, maths and economics to the process of turning raw materials into everyday products. Professional chemical engineers design, construct and manage process operations all over the world. Oil and gas, pharmaceuticals, food and drink, synthetic fibres and clean drinking water are just some of the products where chemical engineering plays a central role.

About EFCE

Founded in 1953, The European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) is a non-profit-making association, whose object is to promote co-operation in Europe between non-profit-making professional scientific and technical societies in 30 countries for the general advancement of chemical engineering and as a means of furthering the development of chemical engineering. See www.efce.org