

Committees Statements About Paper B

The 2009 Van den Akker prize was awarded to D.R. Goosen, J. A. Olson and R. J. Kerekes for their paper “The Role of Heterogeneity in Compression Refining”. The prize was awarded at the 2009 Fundamental Research Symposium in Oxford, England

Paper B, ranked as #1, presents a classical study and a convincing answer to an old question: What are the fundamentals of pulp refining? The study is very well designed, proving the critical importance of fiber redistribution before the mechanical compression which is the key element of beating.

The results are novel, very important and carefully substantiated. I put the paper by Goosen et al on the first place because I believe it will have larger impact on not only the technological development but also on future research. The study can be repeated and extended to other applications by fellow researchers. I believe this is in the core of what we look for in rewarding the Van den Akker prize: in the advancement of paper physics as a science.

Goosen et al. – This paper performs simple experiments that shed light on the fundamental mechanisms of fibre development during refining with surprising results. It is not hard to imagine that improvements to industrial refining processes could follow from this work, and the elegance and simplicity of the underlying hypothesis were most impressive.

The Johannes A. Van den Akker Prize for Advances in Paper Physics was established in 1999 by IPST, with an endowment made possible through the generous donations of the family, friends, and students of Dr. Van den Akker, a former senior research associate and Chairman of the Department of Physics and Mathematics at the Institute of Paper Chemistry (IPC). The Van den Akker Prize is awarded annually through the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) Paper Physics Committee, of which Dr. Van den Akker was a member for many years.

The Van den Akker Prize for Paper Physics is awarded annually to the author[s] of the best paper published in the area of fiber and paper physics during the preceding calendar year. It is intended to recognize publications that make a significant contribution to the field of paper physics. Dr. Van den Akker was known for his brilliant mind, demand for excellence, and leadership in the field of paper physics for over 40 years. The award this year consisted of a \$2500 honorarium and award medal(s). Nominations of outstanding papers for award consideration were solicited from members of the TAPPI Paper Physics Committee, journal editors, conference proceedings editors, and other paper scientists active in the area of paper physics.