

***Industrie et Technologies* and *L'Usine Nouvelle* Names Bruno Berge Engineer of the Year**

Varioptic's liquid lenses win awards from Numerous Sources



Paris, January 14, 2004 - The magazines *Industrie et Technologies* and *L'Usine Nouvelle*, in conjunction with the Conseil national des ingénieurs et scientifiques de France (CNISF), have just awarded the 2004 Engineer of the Year prize, "Innovation" category, the founding president of Varioptic and inventor of liquid lens technology, Bruno Berge. Seven engineers or teams of engineers were honored for their work, with prizes going to individuals from all types of industries, companies, and organizations.

Paul Wagner, director of publications for *L'Usine Nouvelle* and *Industries et Technologies*, noted that, "The Innovation Prize is awarded to an experienced engineer or team that develops a technical innovation leading to a system, product, piece of equipment, or process of undisputed value or potential. We were unanimous in our decision to award the prize to Varioptic, which devised a technology of unarguable innovativeness and value to different industries."

"We're honored to win this award," added Bruno Berge, founding president of Varioptic. "Ever since we discovered the possibility of using liquids as optics, we have worked tirelessly to improve our technology. Today, my team and I are happy to have earned the support of manufacturers such as Semco and to see our efforts recognized by our peers. 2005 is getting off to a great start!"

About the Engineer of the Year Award

The popularity of science majors among young people is waning. Over the decades, firms have flirted with one "managerial fad" after another, rarely to the benefit of engineers, who only really make a name for themselves when they hold positions as managers. Any initiative likely to enhance the image of the engineering profession and illustrate its role in society is welcome. For all these reasons, the CNISF (Conseil National des Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France), *Industrie et Technologies* and *Usine Nouvelle* decided to create the Engineer of the Year Award.

About Varioptic

Varioptic's electrowetting technology paved the way for a new generation of Auto Focus and Zoom lenses with absolutely no moving parts. Products based on the technology offer basic advantages over those of earlier generations, notably in terms of cost, dimension, power consumption, and speed. The company invests substantially in R&D to maintain its technological lead.

Created in 2002 and based in Lyon, France, Varioptic is headed by its CEO Etienne Paillard and a CTO, Bruno Berge, who invented the technology and founded the company.

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