

ASCA® CHALLENGE 2020 – INTERNET OF THINGS: ARMOR SOLAR POWER FILMS OPEN INNOVATION COMPETITION IS NOW OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

ARMOR solar power films (ARMOR Group) is launching its open innovation competition, The ASCA® Challenge 2020 - Internet of Things (IoT), on November 19, 2020. This international challenge is open to all competitors, regardless of their specialty. The objective of the competition is to identify the contestant who can find an innovative solution that replaces batteries in IoT devices with ASCA® organic photovoltaic (OPV) film, an energy-harvesting technology. Amongst a variety of prizes, the winner will be awarded business strategy coaching and marketing advice, along with guidance and supervision from ARMOR solar power films' experts on the development and implementation of a finalized prototype.

OPV PROVIDES BETTER FUNCTIONALITY AND AUTONOMY FOR CONNECTED OBJECTS

With 30 billion connected objects being used worldwide¹, the IoT market is experiencing an annual growth estimated between 15% and 25%². Powering these devices with batteries raises two major issues – the impact they have on the environment and the logistical cost of replacing them. Lightweight, semi-transparent and flexible, the ASCA® OPV film from ARMOR solar power films can resolve these issues. It can make any IoT solution energy-independent, because it is extremely sensitive to light, which makes it particularly effective in low-light environments (>200 lux), specifically indoors. It can be adapted to all connected objects, whatever their shape, size or material, and is very easy to integrate. ARMOR solar power films directly collaborates with its partners to provide custom designed OPV solutions and enhanced electric energy management systems.

ALWAYS LOOKING TO INNOVATE, COLLABORATE AND DISCOVER

Since IoT is a vast ecosystem currently developing in a large number of sectors (construction, transportation, industry, agriculture, home automation, wearables, etc.), this international challenge is open to all competitors (engineers, designers, start-ups, students, etc.), regardless of their specialty, as previously mentioned. There will be three winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd place), who will be selected based on their ability to propose a uniquely innovative solution. Each contestant will be especially judged on the solution's beneficial impact on the environment, the economic opportunities it offers and the presentation of a solid business model. The jury is made up of seven international experts (business leaders and investors from the chemistry and IoT sectors, journalists and academics), and four members of the ARMOR solar power films' team.

“The ASCA® Challenge 2020 - Internet of Things is a great opportunity for candidates to highlight their innovative projects and benefit from our teams' support. This competition can also lead to a potential commercial collaboration with some of the candidates.”

Moïra Asses, Marketing and Business Development Director, ARMOR solar power films.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants have until December 31, 2020 to submit their applications via the website, challenge.asca.com, in English only. The awards will be presented in January 2021, however, the details will be communicated at a later date.

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¹ <https://fr.statista.com/statistiques/584481/internet-des-objets-nombre-d-appareils-connectes-dans-le-monde--2020/>

² BCC Research <https://www.objetconnecte.com/capteurs-iot-etude-2023/>

About ARMOR

ARMOR specializes in the industrial formulation of inks and the coating of thin layers onto thin films. The Group is the global market leader in the design and manufacture of thermal transfer ribbons for printing variable traceability data on labels and flexible packaging. The European market leader in innovative and sustainable printing services and consumables, the Group is a pioneer in the development and production of industrial inks and innovative materials, such as organic solar films, coated collectors for electric batteries and bespoke filaments for additive manufacturing. With an international presence, ARMOR has nearly 2,000 employees in some 20 different countries. In 2019 it posted annual revenue of €280m. Each year the group invests nearly €30m in industrial equipment and R&D. ARMOR is a responsible company committed to stimulating innovation within society. www.armor-group.com

ARMOR solar power films, a subsidiary of ARMOR Group, designs and develops intelligent, tailor-made, flexible and low-carbon solar energy solutions on an industrial scale for its international partners. Its team of experts of sixty people is spread over France, Germany and West Africa. www.asca.com

