

# German Innovation Award 2020 EcoCvelox awarded with gold!

## Interview with Marko Flatten, Team Manager Product Development

Monschau, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

In an interview with Marko Flatten, Team Manager Product Development and one of the Ecoclean engineers who led the EcoCvelox project, we got an insight into how the development came about. Let's have a look behind the scenes of this project.

**Ecoclean:** Marko, what was the reason or even the basic problem, that led to the development of this innovation?

**Marko Flatten:** The reason for this new product development was primarily the customer benefit that this technology offers compared to the systems previously available on the market. The requirements for component cleanliness have been increasing steadily in recent years. In the case of machined components, it is of decisive importance that the burrs which are produced during the machining process are reliably removed in order to achieve the required maximum particle sizes of the cleaned component. The solutions available on the market so far could either solve the burr problem or meet the cleaning requirements if clean deburring was carried out beforehand. There was therefore no clever solution that combined both processes and thus offered the customer added value. Until now, different suppliers have often separately assumed the work for cleaning and for deburring. This meant that responsibility was in different hands, which led to problems in the event of errors or defects.

By including all our global subsidiaries in this development process, we have been able to gather customer needs from all regions and all industries. This collaborative needs analysis has resulted in the very modular design of this machine, which enables us to offer both pure high-pressure deburring as well as any combination of the required processes.

Established Ecoclean systems, such as the EcoCflex and EcoCagile, were previously used primarily for large components such as cylinder heads or crankcases and had distinct disadvantages when it came to smaller parts such as pump or valve housings. These disadvantages include long cycle times, high investment costs and disproportionately large machine dimensions in relation to the size of the components.

Altogether, we collected data from more than 50 potential customers from Europe, China and the USA. For many customers, the continuous process responsibility was an important requirement. Today, this is exactly our unique selling point.

**Ecoclean:** How did the development process evolve and how long did it take to come up with this innovation?

**Marko:** The cornerstone for the development of the EcoCvelox was laid in 2015 at the Ecoclean Competence Centre in Filderstadt, Germany. Through intensive observation of the competitors and many interviews with potential customers, we soon realized that we needed a system concept that could offer our customers special advantages if we wanted to differentiate ourselves not only in terms of price. In 2017, the work on the project was intensified due to the worldwide high demand for innovative deburring solutions and further locations were involved in the development process with the aim of preparing a concrete development proposal that

meets the latest requirements from the industry to the highest degree. The official launch of the product took place at the EMO trade fair held in Hanover in September 2019. The first prototype was developed in close cooperation between the Ecoclean Competence Centers Filderstadt and Monschau. The production of the EcoCvelox is carried out at the Monschau site.

**Ecoclean:** What is so special about this innovation and what particular benefit does the innovation provide to our customers?

**Marko:** Ecoclean has been the market and technology leader in the fields of deburring and component cleaning for many years and has repeatedly developed innovative and efficient system concepts in both areas and successfully established them on the market. The EcoCvelox combines the two central technological fields of competence not only theoretically but also practically in a highly flexible product. There is a big difference between the EcoCvelox and existing products, because these processes are newly integrated in a single machine. In the past, the functions of high-pressure water jet deburring and component cleaning were traditionally covered by two separate machines.

The benefit clearly lies with the customer. The responsibility for component quality now belongs to just one supplier. There are no more interfaces between two different suppliers or separate machines. We solve several problems with only one machine. This helps the customer to save time and money, increases availability and saves a lot of coordination.

## Images description



Picture: Ecoclean\_Marko Flatten

EcoCvelox, the all-in-one system for deburring, cleaning & drying of machined components, was awarded with gold by the German Innovation Award 2020.

Source: Ecoclean GmbH

*The SBS Ecoclean Group develops, produces and markets forward-looking machinery, systems and services for industrial part cleaning and surface treatment applications. Its globally leading solutions help companies around the world in conducting efficient and sustainable manufacturing to high quality standards. The client base comes from the automotive industry and its suppliers in addition to a broad range of market sectors ranging from medical equipment, micro technology and precision devices through mechanical and optical engineering to power systems and aircraft industry. Ecoclean's success is based on innovation, cutting-edge technology, sustainability, closeness to the customer, diversity and respect. The Group employs a workforce of over 900 at its 12 sites in nine countries worldwide.*

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