

SEADEVCON Maritime Award 2020 Goes to Professor Dr. Markus Rex

Leader of largest polar expedition in history - MOSAiC project investigating Arctic as epicenter of global warming - Award presented by Arved Fuchs - “A game changer in climate research” - Prize winner to participate virtually from North Pole

Hamburg, 25 August 2020. The **SEADEVCON Maritime Award 2020** (www.seadevcon.com) goes to Professor Dr. Markus Rex, Head of Atmospheric Physics in the Climate Sciences Division at the Alfred Wegener Institute, Helmholtz Centre for Polar and Marine Research, in Potsdam. Rex leads the on-going historic project named MOSAiC (Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate) involving hundreds of researchers from 20 countries (www.mosaic-expedition.org).

Following in the footsteps of Fridtjof Nansen’s ground-breaking expedition with his wooden sailing ship Fram in 1893-1896, the MOSAiC expedition brings a modern research icebreaker, the German ship Polarstern, close to the north pole for a full year including for the first time in polar winter. The data gathered will be used by scientists around the globe to take climate research to a completely new level.

The SEADEVCON Maritime Award is to recognize annually a personality whose “lifetime achievement is exemplary for the fight of a sustainable and respectful use of the world’s seas”. Highlighting the principle of continuity, the author and expedition leader Arved Fuchs, winner of the prize in 2019, will present this year’s honoree. Fuchs wholeheartedly endorses this selection: “The work of Markus Rex and his colleagues is simply no less than a game changer. I couldn’t be more supportive of what they are doing.”

Carsten Bullemer, SEADEVCON founder and organiser, explains the choice: “Arved Fuchs is a hard act to follow, but in Markus Rex we have found a worthy successor. His scientific credentials, his infectious enthusiasm, and his high standing with numerous political leaders make him an impactful ambassador for our common cause. We are happy with our decision and glad he has accepted the award.”

The honoree himself is delighted: “To be given the SEADEVCON Maritime Award 2020, which I will receive on behalf of all my colleagues and all those who have made MOSAiC possible, is a very meaningful recognition of our work. But more importantly, it helps alert broader audiences to the very pressing issue of global climate change and the grave threat it poses to humanity. And it all begins and ends with the Arctic.”

In his own words, Rex characterises the high stakes involved in the ambitious MOSAiC project, the first year-round expedition into the central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate system with a budget exceeding €140 million, as follows: “The dramatic changes in the Arctic climate system and the fast retreat of Arctic ice strongly affect global climate. The inability of modern climate models to reproduce key Arctic climate processes is one of the most pressing problems in understanding and predicting global climate change.”

Rex only has one regret: “Sadly, I will not be able to accept the prize in person as I am still on board the Polarstern, but I will dial-in to speak about our work and give updates on the expedition.”

--- 2 ---

The SEADEVCON Maritime Award 2020 has been supported by BRIESE Research, a subsidiary of BRIESE Schiffahrts GmbH & Co. KG (www.briese-research.de). Operating German research vessels, the company was involved in the transportation of personnel and material for the MOSAiC project, including taking Professor Rex to a fjord in Spitsbergen in the early stages of the expedition.

Scheduled for 24 September and hosted in one of the tents erected on Rathausmarkt for the 12th Hamburg Climate Week, the maritime industry conference will take on a format that fully respects all safety protocols while still providing a much needed forum for addressing issues around the impact of commercial shipping on climate change. Accordingly, the conference has been renamed to the **SEADEVCON Special '20**.

--- ENDS ---

Contact: Dr. Axel Gietz contact@seadevcon.com