Albert Markendorf and Raimund Loser, winners in the "Industry" category

In surveying and the manufacturing industry, powerful measuring devices are indispensable. With their high-precision laser-controlled co-ordinate measuring device, Swiss engineer Albert Markendorf and his German colleague Raimund Loser took measurement accuracy to a new level. Their handheld devices are ten times more accurate than earlier solutions. Marketed by Leica Geosystems since 2004, the system can measure and monitor large-scale objects like railway tracks and oil pipelines, as well as fabricated components in the manufacturing industry, all with millimetre precision. Its customers include carmakers like Audi, Daimler and Toyota, along with aerospace companies such as Boeing and Airbus. The inventors are both still active in managerial positions in product development at Leica Geosystems.