

PRESS RELEASE

SENER Foundation's Best Doctoral Thesis Award in its second edition goes to a space-related study

Madrid, April 3, 2014 - For the second consecutive year, the [SENER Foundation](#) has delivered the Best Doctoral Thesis Award at an event held in the premises of the engineering and technology group [SENER](#) in Madrid (Spain), which was headed by Enrique de Sendagorta, President of the SENER Foundation and Honorary President of SENER.

The award, endowed with 12,000 Euros, has gone to Mario Merino, who took his doctorate degree at the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) in 2013 and is the author of the winning thesis "Analysis of magnetic nozzles for space plasma thrusters". The thesis supervisor, Professor Eduardo Ahedo, has also been awarded 3,000 Euros.

This was the second time that the SENER Foundation grants this recognition, which aims to stimulate research at the highest level in the scientific and technological areas in which SENER operates, that is, in the fields of Aerospace, Power and Process, Infrastructures and Transport and Marine.

The jury, made up of chair professors of the aforementioned scientific and technology disciplines as well as doctorates belonging to SENER's technical team and SENER Foundation trustees holding a doctor degree, has chosen Dr. Merino's thesis, as stated by Juan Seijas, Director of the SENER Foundation, "for having a high technical level and providing an evident stimulus for advances in researching and learning within the company and also for representing an excellent base from where to strengthen cooperation between University and SENER".

During the award-giving ceremony, Enrique de Sendagorta compared Dr. Mario Merino's thesis with the defense argued by the economist Schumpeter claiming that "great inventions are those that can be called as constructive storm creators and are achieved through continued efforts, with small improvements, that combined lead to innovations that result in great assets". Also the President of SENER, Jorge Sendagorta, had a few words and joined the congratulations of others, stressing that "a thesis like this ensures the development of a technology- and industry-based economy" and thanked the author for making possible for the SENER Foundation, thanks to his thesis, to meet "its objective of promoting engineering throughout the world and setting a very high bar for engineering in Spain".

For his part, the author of the winning thesis, Mario Merino, thanked the SENER Foundation in his name and on behalf of the thesis supervisor "for this recognition of his work, all the more considering that it is given by a company like SENER. This award represents a unique incentive for a doctor in engineering at the beginning of his professional career and leads to the strengthening of the collaboration between the University Carlos III and SENER, thanks to which many great advantages will be enjoyed by both sides".

About SENER

SENER is a private engineering and technology group founded in 1956, which seeks to offer its clients state-of-the-art technological solutions and enjoys international recognition thanks to its independence and its commitment to innovation and quality. SENER has a workforce of about 5,500 professionals working in subsidiaries in Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and United States. The operating income of the group amounts to 1,175 million Euros (2012 figures).

For more information:

SENER engages in the specific activities of Engineering and Construction and also holds industrial company shares in firms involved in the field of Energy and Environment, as well as in Aeronautics. In the Engineering & Construction area, SENER has become a global benchmark in the fields of Aerospace, Infrastructures and Transport, Power and Processes and Marine.

About the SENER Foundation

The SENER Foundation, an organization established in 2002 by SENER Engineering Group and the Sendagorta family, was founded to promote initiatives and activities based on the contribution to community social service through people training and to develop the socially responsible nature of business activities.

The main goals of the SENER Foundation are: spreading the spirit of the founders of SENER, which is characterized by the search for scientific and technology knowledge; applying this knowledge to engineering projects to achieve the best solution for the needs of its environment and time frame; supporting the work and/or the training of people or groups that stand out for their capabilities and initiative, scientific or technological competence, and ethical responsibility; and, finally, encouraging the moral and material progress of society through programs and projects of scientific and technological content.

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