

PRESS RELEASE

The SENER Foundation honors a thesis focused on developing improved electro-chemical batteries with sodium-ion technology

Madrid, November 11, 2020 - The SENER Foundation has decided to present its Best Doctoral Thesis Award to Jaione Martínez de Ilarduya, from the University of the Basque Country, and a researcher from the company [BCARE](#) (a spin-off of [CIC energigUNE](#)) for her thesis entitled *Na-Ion Battery Development: From Electrode Processing Studies to the Heat Generation Model of a Monolayer Puch Cell*. The work was supervised by professors Laida Otaegui Ameztegui and Monika Ortueta Aldama. The prize is worth 12,000 euros for the author of the thesis and 3,000 euros for the thesis directors.

In awarding the prize, the jury noted the solution proposed in the thesis to address the growing energy demand to supply mobile devices (telephones, laptops, etc.), and in innovative technologies such as electric or hybrid automotive vehicles, among many other applications.

In response to this demand for materials that can store energy safely and efficiently, the award-winning thesis focuses on the development of **new electro-chemical sodium-ion batteries with improved durability**, a battery type that is proposed as an energy storage solution that is safer and cheaper than current alternatives. Specifically, the jury underscored the experimental part of the thesis to demonstrate the possibilities of applying this technology.

After learning about the award, the author of the thesis expressed her "appreciation to the SENER Foundation for this award, which is a recognition of all the effort and hard work done during the thesis, and of all those people who have been involved in it in one way or another, and also for giving visibility to the current research projects." Dr. Jaione Martínez de Ilarduya carried out her thesis at [CIC energigUNE](#), a Basque research center of reference in electrochemical and thermal energy storage, and after finishing it, she joined [BCARE](#), a spin-off of CIC energigUNE.

The thesis directors also pointed out "the importance of encouraging research among young people both in the university environment and in other agents in the field of science and technology, by institutions such as the SENER Foundation. Furthermore, they recognize the contribution to society of carrying out this type of research that seeks to improve people's lives in some way."

Through its Best Doctoral Thesis Award, the SENER Foundation aims to stimulate research at the highest level in the areas of science and technology in which the [SENER](#) group is active, namely, in the aerospace, infrastructure, energy and naval sectors. The SENER Foundation is expected to announce soon the tenth edition of the Best Doctoral Thesis Awards for works defended in 2020.

About the SENER Foundation

The SENER foundation was created in May 2002 by the SENER Engineering Group and the Sendagorta family to promote humanitarian initiatives and activities. Over its 15+ years of activity, the SENER Foundation has been working in social services at the community level by means of training people, and thereby developing social responsibility in professional activities.

The objectives of the SENER Foundation are: to spread the spirit of the founders of SENER, characterized by the search for scientific and technological knowledge; to apply this knowledge to engineering projects to create better solutions for the needs of our environment and time; to support people and groups in their work and/or training who stand out for their

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ability and initiative, scientific or technological expertise, and ethical responsibility; and to favor the moral and material advancement of society through scientific and technological programs and projects.

About SENER

SENER is a private engineering and technology group founded in 1956, which seeks to offer its clients the most advanced technological solutions and which enjoys international recognition thanks to its independence and its commitment to innovation and quality. SENER has more than 2,350 professionals in offices in five continents. The group's operating income exceeds 433 million euros (2019 figures).

SENER combines the activities typical of Aerospace and Engineering and has ownership stakes in companies working in the power generation field. SENER Aerospace has more than 50 years of experience and is a top-tier Space, Defense and Science supplier. SENER Engineering has become a world leader in the areas of Infrastructure, Power and Marine.

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