

WIPO NATIONAL AWARD FOR INVENTORS, 2025



mag. Karin Žvokelj, director of Slovenian Intellectual Property Office, Nejc Novak for
izr. prof. Franc Majdič

Photo: Marjan Verč, Jožef Stefan Institute, 2025

Justification: WIPO 2025 award goes to assoc. prof. dr. Franc Majdič, professor at Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Ljubljana, the co-inventor of six currently patented inventions, with one of the most important – “Modular hydraulic rotary motor”. This invention enabled the series production of a special hydraulic motor (rotator) in the company KGL d.o.o. This breakthrough invention opened a new production line for KGL, which had previously been limited to supplying parts for the automotive industry. By doing so, it provided the company with greater independence from fluctuations in the automotive market and ensured long-term strategic resilience. The invention has already delivered tangible industrial and economic benefits: it has enabled serial production for domestic and international markets, created new jobs, and strengthened KGL’s position as an innovative Slovenian manufacturer with global competitiveness. This achievement exemplifies the values of the WIPO Award: transforming inventive knowledge into real-world industrial application, generating measurable economic impact, and enhancing the international visibility of Slovenian innovation.