

Motivering till utdelningen;

“Through impressive empirical research Mattias has made a contribution to business history research in an area that has been somewhat overlooked by researchers.

During the Second World War, and the Cold War, neutral Sweden poured resources into contingency planning and preparations for both war and blockades. This included preparations by corporations, state owned as well as privately owned. As Sweden does not have petroleum reserves other means were necessary to provide fuel oil and gasoline for the military and the civilian society. Thus Mattias thesis is also a contribution to the history of energy policy.

The thesis covers both why the operation was set up, how it was organized and why it continued to operate despite being unprofitable – and – why the project was eventually discontinued, helping us understand the changing political rationales for war and contingency preparations over time.

This is solid work in an area where more research is needed – and where Mattias has provided a stepping stone for future researchers.”