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COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

WNE reveals 2018 WNE Awards team winners

Paris Nord Villepinte – Tuesday 26 June

The ceremony of the second edition of the WNE Awards has just revealed the 2018 prize winners.

Highlighting industry excellence, the WNE awards this year gave **8 prizes, rewarding Innovation, Skill and Knowledge Management, Operational Excellence and Nuclear Safety, with a new prize dedicated to Small and Medium Sized Businesses in each of the four categories.**

Launched with success in 2016, the WNE Awards this year attracted entries from no less than 147 projects, representing an increase of 24% compared to 2016, by around 100 companies, half of which are Small and Medium Sized Businesses.

Four international personalities chaired the juries of the four categories which were composed of international and renowned experts. They were: **François Jacq, CEA chairman and chief executive** (Innovation Jury), **Jacques Regaldo, WANO Chairman** (Nuclear Safety Jury) **Maria Korsnick, President of the Nuclear Energy Institute** (Operational Excellence Jury) and **Jean Llewellyn OBE, former Executive Director of the National Skills Academy for Nuclear** (Skill & Knowledge Management)

INNOVATION AWARDS

“In the 2018 edition of WNE, it was particularly interesting to notice that the Innovation awards received the biggest number of applications, with 68 projects, evidence of the dynamism of the nuclear industry. Moreover, for their first year participation, the SMEs positively stand out with as many applications as the Large groups, showing that innovation is key for all the nuclear industry.

With all the jury members, Simon Huffeteau, Marco Ricotti, Koichi Noda, Jacek Jagielski and Yuri Olenin, we would like to underline the high quality of the entries. We noticed numerous solutions for dismantling, the increasing role of the digital in the proposed solutions, the novelty of the products and above all, the fact that some of those technologies could be applied soon in facilities.”

François Jacq, administrateur général du CEA, Innovation Jury Chairman.

WINNERS INNOVATION :

▪ **LARGE COMPANIES: ORANO PROJETS - AN ULTRA-COMPACT GAMMA CAMERA IN SUPPORT OF NUCLEAR INVESTIGATION OPERATIONS**

Localization of radioactive hot spots is a crucial challenge for the nuclear industry and a major topic for R&D and innovation. This step is key for maintenance, decommissioning, waste management and radiation protection for complex operations, where space is limited and human intervention impossible or costly in terms of occupational exposure. To provide operators and customers with a fast, easy-to-use and reliable solution, Orano developed in collaboration with CEA a gamma imaging system called “NanoPix”, a real-time ultra-light gamma-ray imaging system that creates images of two different wavelengths of photons (visible and gamma) and superimposes them. This ultra-portable system allows visualizing gamma radiation in all nuclear environments.

▪ **SMEs: OREKA GROUP - DEMPLUS® FOR NUCLEAR**

DEMplus is the first 3D simulation software dedicated to nuclear projects. It’s a decision-support tool based on real-time 3D technologies. Its purpose is to prepare and follow up a project in the nuclear field through a global approach. It enables to check technical feasibility of an intervention (accessibility, tools performances and radiological environment), to evaluate in real-time costs, interventions durations allowing planning establishment and radiological and wastes assessments. Sensitivities studies can be easily performed allowing an optimum scenario choice, according to the project criteria. This enables safety improvement and gains increase.

NOMINEES INNOVATION

- **LARGE COMPANIES:**
 - **BERTIN TECHNOLOGIES SAPHYRAD E** Development of an innovative multi-probe contamination monitor taking into account the ALARA Principle
 - **JAMES FICHER NUCLEAR** *Deflector plate removal from the Pile Fuel Cladding Silo at Sellafield*
- **SMEs**
 - **FLYABILITY** : Elios
 - **INSPECTOR SYSTEMS** - Pipe robot for multiple segment bend travel in vertical and small diameter pipe systems

NUCLEAR SAFETY AWARDS

“The results have been the subject of a deep examination, animated discussion, and also a consensus from the 7 members of the jury (representing the legal authorities or operators from 7 countries, or other organisations: Canada, Czech Republic, India, Japan, Ukraine, AIEA and WANO)

Four criteria have been established to analyse the applications: the extent of the proposed improvements towards Safety, the universality/portability of the solutions, the optimisation of the Cost/efficiency rationale of the various projects, and finally, the quality and the originality of the applications.

Aspects such as « innovative » and « transposable » of the most highlighted projects have mostly been the key subject of debate between the jury members. It must be noted that some of the very new technical solutions could have been submitted in the Innovation category. The fact that companies have submitted them in the Safety category, is particularly comforting, because this testifies to the priority and visible commitment of all the actors towards a constant improvement in nuclear safety.”

Jacques Regaldo, Chairman of WANO, Nuclear Safety Jury Chairman.

WINNERS NUCLEAR SAFETY

- **LARGE COMPANIES: EDF - INNOVATIVE FOUNDATION TO AVOID THE RUIN OF BUILDINGS BY LIQUEFACTION IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE**

Development and implementation of a new foundation technique (boxed foundation) to confine the ground under new buildings built on the EDF NPPs, to prevent the risk of liquefaction of soil, during major earthquakes.

To achieve these walls and guarantee them sufficient inertia, the technique used is the realization of secant columns, executed by jet-grouting. It makes it possible to adapt to the heterogeneity of the soil, in nature and in compactness: crossing the identified hard points, anchoring to the rock, homogeneity of the quality of the soil mortar consisting of silts or alluvium, and treatment of the levels at very low compactness.

- **SMEs: LABORATOIRE CEVIDRA - NEW EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR EXTERNAL EXPOSURE TO URANIUM, PLUTONIUM, AMERICIUM AND THORIUM.**

Cevidra® Calixarene cream is a new emergency medical treatment that protects nuclear personnel from contamination of the skin and the body by radioactive materials. Cevidra® Calixarene cream is the only patented medical device in the world that instantly neutralizes cutaneous contamination of radioelements such as Plutonium, Uranium, Americium, Thorium, Cobalt, Cesium, Strontium and thus prevents their transfer into the body, limiting both the internal contamination and the heavy associated treatments. It acts immediately by creating physicochemical bonds between the contaminant atoms and the active product (Calixarene). Once this bond is formed the molecules become too bulky to penetrate the skin.

NOMINEES NUCLEAR SAFETY

- **LARGE COMPANIES**
 - **FRAMATOME** : *Passive Shutdown Seal to reduce RCP seal leakage in Station Black-Out conditions*
 - **CATERPILLAR** : *Modular design of containerized Electric Diesel Generators*
- **SMEs**
 - **AVAROC** : Securix – Ensuring protection of NPP components and structures from external flying objects
 - **ISYmap** : Global – *Wireless beacon providing information on gas, radiation or temperature in rough conditions*

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

« Choosing two winners and four runners-up from among 30 entries from around the world wasn't an easy task. It was challenging in a good way and testament to the fantastic applications. There were some great innovations. They all provided value. It was encouraging to see.

The jury assessed the entries by considering the proposal's potential benefits to operators, decision-makers and those running an NPP. »

Maria Korsnick, President and CEO of the Nuclear Energy Institute, Operational Excellent jury Chairman

WINNERS OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

▪ **LARGE COMPANIES: ABB, ABILITY ASSET SUITE**

ABB Ability Asset Suite is the latest evolutionary step in our quest towards providing the international nuclear community with the most comprehensive and best-in-class software solutions for operational excellence. We have unified our enterprise asset management (EAM), equipment reliability (ER) and shift operations management (eSOMS) solutions under the "Asset Suite" name. This will enable customers to improve asset availability and performance, and reduce operation and maintenance costs with a single solution.

▪ **SMEs – PME : NEWTESOL, CLADDING WELDING TECHNOLOGY**

Newtesol avoids as much as possible manual welding to maximize human performance. They developed their own tailor-made torch design to weld by automatic welding, the only one in the market. Inside a 1 inch tube, inside a tank through a hand hole, we always find a way to weld automatically almost everywhere on any shape and geometry.

NOMINEES OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

▪ **LARGE COMPANIES**

- **Orano, Mobile Apparatus**
- **NRG, Core Reload Optimizer**

▪ **SMEs**

- **ARCYS, Wireless system**
- **Siteflow, Engineering mobile app**

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AWARDS

«*The Skills & Knowledge Management Award attracted great interest this year and the quality of applications was excellent, both from large organisations and SMEs. A highly skilled and experienced panel of experts came together to judge these Awards and had extensive deliberations to decide the winners and runners-up*

*In both categories the panel focussed on three key areas: a project/application that will have real long-term impact on retaining skills and knowledge for future generations across the sector, rather than just a one-off training activity (**Knowledge management and retention**), something new, dynamic and innovative that could also potentially be used/replicated in other countries or organisations (**Innovation**), a real evidence and commitment from the company senior leaders to demonstrate that the initiative is effectively embedded and utilized across the organisation (**Leadership**)."*

Jean Llewellyn OBE, former CEO National Skills Academy for Nuclear – Skills & Knowledge Management jury President

WINNERS SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

▪ **LARGE GROUPS: ROSATOM – INTEGRATED APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT JSC "AFRIKANTOV OKBM".**

The Development Strategy provides for developing at OKBM a management system to preserve and transfer knowledge — including the knowledge of key technologies — from designers to customers and users of science-intensive products. It incorporates state-of-the-art technologies as well as mentoring, training, events, research, reports and competency development. Clear evidence was provided as to the company-wide leadership for this initiative and of the impacts and successes to date.

▪ **SMEs: EXPERCONNECT – INNOVAGEING MANAGEMENT**

A Post Retirement Collaboration established to maximise the benefit from the experience of retirees in a fully compliant, ethical and socially acceptable framework, retaining and developing knowledge and skills for the future.

NOMINEES SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT▪ **LARGE COMPANIES**

- **FRAMATOME** - *Framatome's WebCAP database documents, tracks, shares and preserves knowledge relevant to safe nuclear power plant maintenance from an aging workforce for the next generation via lessons learned, observations, self-assessments, continuous improvements and cause analysis with corrective actions*
- **ROSENERGOATOM** – *The training system on ROSATOM production system at the enterprises of the State Corporation ROSATOM*

▪ **SMEs**

- **TECHNODOC** – *Knowledge Workers*
- **THERMOCOAX** – *ISO 19443 and Skills & Knowledge Management*

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**About AIFEN**

WNE IS AN EVENT BY THE AIFEN (Association Française des Industriels Français Exportateurs du Nucléaire – French association of nuclear exporters) which represents more than 300 French companies and major organisations (PFCE, PFME, GIIN, PNB) from all stages of the nuclear power chain, from fuel production to decommissioning.

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*organised by the SAFI, a subsidiary of Reed Expositions and Ateliers d'Art de France

