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FEFCO crowns corrugated industry supplier champions in Copenhagen

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The smartest and most sustainable industry suppliers in the corrugated industry were honoured with awards on October 22 at the end of the FEFCO Technical Seminar in Copenhagen.

FEFCO, the European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers, issued seven awards at the end of the three-day event in Copenhagen.

The most prestigious FEFCO prize was for Best Innovation, and this year the Gold Award went to İlmay Karamanlar from Dücker Conveyor Systems for a research and development pilot project on customised and automated loading of finished product pallets on trucks.

The Silver Award went to Javier Quesada from Kento for a project integrating two printing technologies (flexo analogue and digital) in one hybrid machine, combining flexibility in printing technologies and reducing print costs.

The Bronze Award went to Constantin Ritter from BHS Intralogistics for flexible paper roll handling on the corrugator, reducing manning and limiting unsafe clamp truck movements.

The Health and Safety Award was given to Tristany Serra from SERRA for the use of electronic sensors for forklifts, making them dummy-proof and rendering plants safer.

The Sustainability Award went to Elizabeth Staab from H.B.Fuller for the effort to make adhesives, starch additives and adhesive coated tapes more sustainable.

The Best Presentation Award, out of some 62 six-minute spotlights delivered during the Copenhagen seminar, was won by Bernhard Mueller and Christin Haubner, from BHS Corrugated, for their inspiring interactive presentation. Their solution simplifies the interlinked connection between BHS material and corrugated processes.

And the most Inspiring New FEFCO Member Award went to Openpack's CEO and Managing Director Stefan Uebelacker and Head of Innovation and Business Development Kurt Salman for creating a dedicated corrugated app connecting all the players in the corrugated industry.

There was also a Lifetime Achievement Award, for Peter Dücker from the Dücker Group, for his dedication to the corrugated industry and for his valuable input in developing, introducing, and supporting high level and innovative material handling technology.

FEFCO's new Director General Eleni Despotou said the awards reflected the vibrant innovation in the sector. She added that the coronavirus pandemic had triggered people and companies' new perspectives, helping them to think differently about their products, processes and systems. "Thus, every big challenge brings opportunities," she said.

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Note to the editors

FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) represents the interests of the European Corrugated Board Manufacturers. Headquartered in Brussels, FEFCO has 17 Association members, all European national corrugated packaging organisations. The role of the Federation is to investigate economic, financial, technical and policy issues of interest to the corrugated packaging Industry, to analyse all factors which may influence the industry, and to promote and develop its reputation.

Europe's corrugated industry in Europe makes about 50 billion square metres of board per year, enough to cover Denmark. It has 373 companies, 646 plants and accounts for around 100,000 jobs. Corrugated cardboard packaging is circular by nature: it is based on a renewable resource; it is recyclable and recycled in reality. The average box weight decreased by 9% between 1996 and 2018 and contains on average 89% recycled material.