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Card Industry Celebrates Winners of the Élan Awards at the 26th Annual ICMA EXPO

Winners Recognized at ICMA's 19th Annual Awards Ceremony

PRINCETON JUNCTION, N.J., April 18, 2016 — The International Card Manufacturers Association (ICMA), a global trade association for card manufacturers, personalizers, issuers and supplier, has announced its winners of the 2016 Élan Awards for Card Manufacturing Excellence.

Jeffrey Barnhart, ICMA founder and executive director, revealed the winners at a festive carnival themed evening reception and dinner held April 6 at Universal's Loews Royal Pacific Resort in Orlando, Florida, during the 26th annual ICMA EXPO.

"The quality and innovation of the cards being entered each year is very impressive," Barnhart said.

In the global arena of world-class cards, the ICMA Élan Awards for Card Manufacturing Excellence celebrates the pinnacle of design innovation, security, and technical achievements in the industry by leading manufacturers from around the globe. Winners of this prestigious competition tap the power of industry recognition and promotional opportunity.

For more than a quarter century, the ICMA EXPO has served as a fusion meeting place for industry professionals to connect, network and discuss changing technologies, developments and products. ICMA honors its members' worldclass achievements in both card design and technology innovation through its Élan Awards.

After Barnhart announced each respective winner, ICMA board president Keith Yeates, of Bristol ID Technologies, presented the individual awards to each honoree.

The 2016 winners and finalists include:

Best Supplier/Vendor New Product, Service or Innovation:

First Finalist: Austria Card GmbH for its DaVinci Designer

Second Finalist: Schreiner Group GmbH for its PIN Safe

Winner: Otto Künnecke GmbH for the Magic Cube

Best Personalization & Fulfillment (P&F) Product, Service or Project:

First Finalist: Bristol ID Technologies for its Utica Comets Season Pass Second

Finalist: Argo Card for the Piotr i Paweł Christmas Package

Winner: Goldpac Limited for its 2016 My Starbucks Rewards City Card Series

MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The first category is Loyalty, Promotional and Gift Cards:

First Finalist: Travel Tags Inc. for the Cabela's Shooting Clay Lenticular Card, manufactured for Cabela's

Second Finalist: Travel Tags Inc. for the Starbucks Special Edition Kona Heritage Card, manufactured for Starbucks Coffee Company

Winner: CompoSecure LLC for the Starbucks Crystal Card, manufactured for Starbucks

The second category is ID and Access Control Cards:

First Finalist: ABnote for the Illinois Medical Cannabis ID Program, manufactured for Creative Information Technology, Inc.

Second Finalist: Canadian Bank Note for the Wisconsin Identification Card, manufactured for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles

Winner: Canadian Bank Note for the Canadian Permanent Resident Card, manufactured for Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Unique Innovation:

First Finalist: Signature Card for the Tractor Supply – Life Out Here Card, manufactured for Tractor Supply Company

Second Finalist: CompoSecure and Goldpac Limited for the SPD Metal Collar Card, manufactured for Goldpac/Shanghai Pudong Development Bank

Winner: G&D (China) Information Technologies Co. Ltd. for the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Personalized Cards – Dream Card, manufactured for Shanghai Pudong Development Bank

Best Secure Payment Card, final manufacturing category:

First Finalist: Valid USA for the Victoria's Secret – Pink Angel Forever, manufactured for Alliance Data Systems Second

Finalist: BioSmart Co. Ltd for the Royal Blue 1000 Card (Metal card), manufactured for WOORI Card

Winner: Goldpac Limited for CMB Full Currency Credit Card, manufactured for China Merchants Bank Credit Card Center

The People's Choice Award, based on the ballots as casted by ICMA EXPO delegates:

First Finalist: Austria Card GmbH for the Aurum Card, manufactured for philoro EDELMETALLE GmbH
Finalist: Valid USA for the Disney Rewards Program – Star Wars Darth Vader Card, manufactured for Chase

Winner: Giesecke & Devrient for the United MileagePlus Explorer Business VISA Card, manufactured for JPMorgan Chase

The judging criteria for the winners are based on three categories: card manufacturing, personalization and fulfillment and suppliers. The judges included ICMA Standards Representative David Tushie, of Magellan Consulting; Brian Summerhayes, managing director of Barnes International; and Thomas Decker, of SMARTRAC.

Last week, ICMA released its 2015 Global Card Market and Personalization and Fulfillment Statistics Reports — a source of valuable card industry data generated from primary and secondary research and statistical modeling created by Al Vrancart, ICMA founder emeritus and industry advisor. Additionally he served as moderator for the judging of this year's award entries.

The global card industry continues to provide growth opportunities," Vrancart said. The report determined that the card industry brought in \$26.5 billion in revenues equating to the production of 35.1 billion cards in 2015. "

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About ICMA

Based in Princeton Junction, NJ, ICMA is a non-profit association of card manufacturers, personalizers, suppliers and related industry participants. With more than 240 members globally, ICMA acts as a resource for industry issues, including the production, technology, application, security and environmental issues of cards. More information is available at www.icma.com.

Nota Bene: High quality photos of last night's winners are available upon request. Contact Jen Samuel via 484-868-8405 or by email jsamuel@cmasolutions.com.