

EOQ Press Release

Winners of the EOQ European Quality Leader Award 2015

The European Organization for Quality (EOQ) has celebrated the winners of the European Quality Leader Award 2015 at the **60th EOQ Congress, in Helsinki/Finland on June 1st, 2016**.

The European Quality Leader (EQL) Award is yearly granted by EOQ. An EOQ 'Quality Leader' is a leader in an organization having succeeded in moving the organization to success for the different stakeholders through his leadership and through the change and Quality improvement processes, in its broadest sense, he has implemented directly through his team.

The EOQ Jury selected as first winner of the EQL Award 2015, **Mr. José Luis Velasco Escudero** from Spain, Quality, Sustainability & Customer Service Manager at LOEWE (LVMH - Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy Group) since 2012.

Mr. José Luis Velasco Escudero was selected the winner of EQL award because of his significant achievements in the field of automotive supply industry, for building a quality culture in different organizations and for integrating the quality function into the strategic and transversal operations of the business with main focus on the customer. Apart from the different companies' high accomplishments reached under his leadership, the expertise in quality management of Mr. José Luis Velasco was valued by several factual recognitions, like the Sustainability Award in Luxury Sector granted to Loewe by Instituto de Empresa of Spain in 2014, and he was winner of the Spain Quality Leader award of 2015. He has a Six Sigma Black Belt qualification (2010) and is the vice-president of the Spanish Association for Quality (AEC), where he is also vice-president of some of its Committees, leading different working groups.

Considering its 60 years' anniversary in 2016 and in order to include the EQL 2015 awarding into the special actions undertaken by EOQ on this important celebration occasion, the Jury selected three other EQL 2015 winners, coming from different important fields of activity:

Dr. Gerald Sendhofer from Austria, General Manager of the QM Committee, University Hospital Graz. He led the implementation of clinical Risk Management System and thereby Patient and Employee Safety for more than 7000 employees and the implementation of the WHO-Surgical Safety Checklist with comprehensive instruments and new controlling tools. He founded the Austrian Society for Quality & Safety in Healthcare and established the Patient Safety Research at the Medical University of Graz. He is the President of the Austrian Society for Quality & Safety in Healthcare since 2014; winner of the Austrian Quality Champion award 2016.

Mr. Torgeir Halvorsen from Norway, CEO at Jaeger Automobil AS. He participated in building and leading Jæger Automobil A/S from one local car dealership representation in 1998 to 7 dealerships and service points in 2015, with plan of development of 3 more, in 2016-17. Under his leadership a traditional Car dealership was transformed into a Lean TTW Model, by studying, training, customizing and implementing Toyota TPS/TSM manufacturing philosophy, processes, people management and quality and problem solving methods in a sales and service business; winner of the Lean Price Norway 2016.

Mr. Patrick Mongillon from France, CEO of AQM Conseil. Through his professional coaching, multiple important companies have achieved successful results in the field of quality and organizational improvement. His book "Process-oriented company" received a national prize in 2005; he is the President of AFQP for Paris and suburbs since 10 years and the leader of the French Think Tank "Made In Qualité".

The EOQ President, Mr. George Georgiades, announced the winners of the European Quality Leader Award 2015 during the Gala Dinner of the EOQ 60th EOQ Congress held in Helsinki/Finland on June 1st, 2016.

The European Quality Leader Award is granted in recognition of outstanding individuals, who devote their time, energy and knowledge in sharing their beliefs to the benefit of the European Society.

The European Organization for Quality (EOQ) associates more than 70,000 members and 500,000 companies within its member and partner organizations in Europe and worldwide. EOQ is the European interdisciplinary organization striving for effective improvement in the sphere of quality management as the coordinating body and catalyst of its Member Organizations aiming to improve European society through the promotion of Quality in its broadest sense.

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