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PRESS RELEASE

Business Excellence Certification Ceremony 2015

Mr Dimitris Symeonidis, Factory Manager at Nestlé Hellas, has been awarded the 2015 Quality Leader of the Year award for Greece during the major event for Business Excellence, "ARISTEIA 2015", which was held on 24 November in the Conference Centre of the Hellenic Management Association (EEDE). During the event dedicated to the most important distinctions rewarding Excellence, the following were also presented: EFQM Levels of Excellence certifications and Investors in People accreditations, special awards to the EFQM Levels of Excellence Assessors, as well as an award in recognition to EEDE from EFQM.

Participants to the event were welcomed warmly by Mr Constantinos Lambrinopoulos, Chairman BoD EEDE, Mr Milto Kozanis, Chairman of the Selection Panel for the Quality Leader of the Year and Mr Leon Tossaint, CEO EFQM.

It is worth noting that during the event EEDE received an award in recognition by EFQM for the 25 years of successful collaboration between the two organisations.

The 2015 Quality Leader of the Year for Greece, Mr Dimitris Symeonidis, received the award from Chairman BoD of EEDE, Mr Constantinos Lambrinopoulos. He referred to the onerous legacy of the persons who received this award in the past (among them, four have also been elected European Quality Leaders).

Since 2007 Mr Symeonidis serves as Factory Manager at Nestlé Hellas. He has been employed at Nestlé for the last 23 years, both in Greece and abroad. He has distinguished himself for undertaking numerous initiatives that maintain and promote business excellence, as well as for several projects associated with the effective organisation of production units, aiming mainly at supporting quality, efficiency and safety in the supply chain. During his long-lasting term of office as head of production units, he has successfully applied total performance management systems as well as good manufacturing practices and lean initiatives. He holds a Bachelor's degree in chemistry, from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has participated in several workshops at international level as member of the Nestlé International Network of Experts. He is married and father of two sons.

The following distinctions rewarding Excellence were also presented: The Investors in People Standard was awarded to InterMed "Ioulia & Irene Tseti Pharmaceutical Laboratories SA" (Mr Vasilis Marmarinos, Quality Assurance Director, received the certificate). The Investors in People-Silver accreditation was awarded for the first time in Greece to the companies: ELBISCO S.A. (Mr Stavros Mpozikas, HR Director, received the certificate), PwC (Ms Despina Marinou, Partner, Human Capital Leader, received the certificate). The Investors in People-Gold accreditation was awarded Piraeus Bank Group's Human Resources Division (a team of employees from the said division received the certificate).

This year EEDE awarded special awards to the EFQM Levels of Excellence Assessors, in an effort to honour these people, who throughout the years passionately support EEDE's work and vision regarding the dissemination of Business Excellence Principles in Greece and in Cyprus, while assisting numerous companies in their journey towards Excellence, with their know-how and expertise.

More specifically, distinctions were awarded to Senior Assessors, Konstantinos Adamopoulos, Alexandros Antonaras, Vassiliki Vlachopanagioti, Antonios Glaros, Angeliki Dimaratou, Dimitris Zamanis, Angeliki Karella, Giorgos Pierrakos, Antonis Spanos, Giorgos Stampoulis and Eleni Tzavara, as well as to Assessors Thomas Aggelopoulos, Michalis Gkioulmpaxiotis, Dimitris Mpilmezis, Cleopatra Nteliou and Zoe Christogerou.

Subsequently, the following companies were certified with the EFQM Committed to Excellence (1 star): GAIA Epicheirein SA, (Mr Yannis Koufoudakis, Managing Director, received the certificate), DOMOTECHNIKI SA (Mr Efthimios Alexopoulos, Vice-president BoD and Director of Studies, received the certificate) and OTE-COSMOTE/ Subdivision of HR Safety and Health (Ms Maria Kolovou, Director of Human Resources, Business Partner for Information Security & Continuity and Head of Occupational Health and Safety, received the certificate).

The Committed to Excellence certification (2 stars) was awarded to the following companies: ALLSEAS MARINE SA (Mr Ioannis Kallioras, Designated Person Ashore/CSO/MLC, received the certificate), CYTA HELLAS TELECOMMUNICATIONS SA/ Customer Service Division (Mr Georgios Athiainitis, Deputy General Director and Director of Customer Service, received the certificate), LARSINOS SA (Ms Maria Bekou, General Manager, received the certificate) and HARLAS INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTS SA (Ms Vassiliki Nassi, President and Managing Director and Mr Grigoris Vlachos, Executive Director, received the certificate).

The Recognised for Excellence certification (3 stars) was awarded to the Postgraduate Program in Human Resources Management of the Athens University of Economics And Business, (the certificate was received by Ms Nansy Papalexandri, Professor Emeritus, former Director of Program, and Mr Ioannis Nikolaou, Assistant Professor, Director of Program).

Moreover, the following companies were certified with the EFQM Recognised for Excellence (4 stars): Interamerican, Shared Services Center (the certificate was received by Ms Paula Bannerton, Director Client Services Division, Mr Xenophon Liapakis, Chief IT and Services Officer, and Mr Stratos Chatzipaylis, Shared Services Center Director); SABO SA (Ms Evgenia Kiliari, Factory Manager, received the certificate).

The Recognised for Excellence certification (5 stars) was awarded to the following companies: ATHENIAN SEA CARRIERS LTD (Captain Ioannis Sifis, Fleet Operations Manager, received the certificate), INTRALOT SA, Integrated Lottery Systems and Services, Group Technology Division (Mr Lefteris Kororos, Group Director of Engineering, received the certificate) and UNI-PHARMA-Kleon Tsetis Pharmaceutical Laboratories SA (Ms Ioulia Tseti, Managing Director, received the certificate).

Also, it should be noted that ALLSEAS MARINE and Athenian Sea Carriers are the first two Shipping Companies in Greece that applied the EFQM Marine Excellence Framework, specifically adapted for the Shipping Sector (EFQM Marine Excellence Framework). This adaptation constitutes an EEDE initiative with global significance. The said companies were granted the "EFQM Marine Excellence" award.

Participants to the event had the opportunity to wander around the Village of Business Excellence, to share best practices and experiences from the pathway to excellence led by the following companies: Cyta Hellas, Edenred, Sabo SA, Center of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Excelixi S.A., Intermed SA and Uni-Pharma SA.

The event was sponsored by Uni-Pharma S.A. Pharmaceutical Laboratories and Intermed SA. Supporters for the event were the following companies: Interamerican and Kandarakis Handmade silver creations. Communication sponsors were the Naftemporiki newspaper, Boussias Communications and the Manager magazine. Internet communication sponsor was naftemporiki.gr, while SBCTV was the television sponsor for the event.