EOQ Press Release

Constantinos Evripides, the Award Winner of EOQ European Quality Leader 2012

The European Organization for Quality (EOQ) has celebrated the winner of the European Quality Leader Award 2012 at the 57th EOQ Congress, in Tallinn/Estonia on June 18th, 2013.

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 EQL Award winner for 2012 is Mr. Constantinos Evripides from Greece, co-founder, shareholder and CEO of the Greek pharmaceutical company GENESIS Pharma S.A. Mr. Constantinos Evripides was selected the winner of EQL award because of his significant and exceptional achievements in the Greek pharmaceutical industry, sound national and international recognition and especially for ensuring financial sustainability of the company in a time of crisis.

After having acquired a long experience in multinational business environments (like PepsiCo International, Wellcome Foundation Ltd.) and a deep knowledge of the pharmaceutical sector over the years, Constantinos Evripides co-founded and developed GENESIS Pharma with the vision to create – not the biggest – but the best pharmaceutical company in Greece, in terms of expertise, innovation and responsible entrepreneurship.

“GENESIS Pharma’s founding mission was and still is to contribute to the improvement of the Greek patients’ health and quality of life, by offering them high quality, safe and efficient branded biopharmaceutical products, through exclusive partnerships with leading multinational biopharmaceutical companies” is one of the main beliefs of Constantinos Evripides.

Under his passionate and committed leadership GENESIS Pharma is today one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in Greece and has developed a network of 13 international partners that includes some of the largest biotech companies in the world. Since inception, GENESIS Pharma has received numerous awards from its international partners for the rapid growth in sales achieved for the products they represent, as well as business awards from independent institutions and auditors in Greece and Europe. In 2009, the company achieved the honourable distinction “Committed to Excellence in Europe” by EFQM after having successfully completed the first of the three EFQM Levels of Excellence. But the best achievement, as considered by Mr. Evripides, was the spectacular turnaround accomplished in the financial status of the company: “in March 2012, the company was holding €217 million in Greek bonds, relating to pharmaceutical sales to hospitals for the years 2008 & 2009. These pharma bonds were included in the PSI and, within one night, their value was cut down by 78%, resulting in a company loss of €170million. After about six months, we managed to ensure the overall survival of the company after the biggest loss suffered by a Greek company from the Greek bonds”.

Furthermore, the company has reached several important accomplishments, like being the only company to be recognized by its own people among the top 10 Best Workplaces in Greece for eleven consecutive years, as well as being distinguished in the CR Index 2010, 2011 (bronze award) and 2012 & 2013 (silver award) for its performance in the CSR field.

Apart from the company’s corporate distinctions, Constantinos Evripides has received the Award “Dynamic Entrepreneur of the Year 2006” in the international competition “Entrepreneur of the Year” held in 2006 in Greece by Ernst & Young.

In 2012 he was elected as President of the Hellenic Entrepreneurship Club, he was reappointed as Vice President of the Hellenic Association of Pharmaceutical Companies (SFEE) Board of Directors and he was elected as external member of the Academic Council of Athens University of Economics and Business.

The EOQ President, Mr. Niyazi Akdas, handed over to the winner the European Quality Leader Trophy and Certificate during the Gala Dinner of the EOQ 57th EOQ Congress in Tallinn/Estonia on June 18th, 2013.

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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