

Branham Group Announces Winners of Inaugural Awards Program

Wednesday, September 26, 2001

Branham Group Inc. - a leading international "Go-to-Market" consulting firm - announces the winners of its inaugural Branham Awards program intended to recognize and honor excellence from Canada's leading information technology companies. The awards were presented last night at a black-tie Gala in the Great Hall of the National Gallery of Canada. This first annual networking event gathered over 400 CEOs, Presidents and senior level executives of IT companies across Canada.

The winners for each of the eight award categories are:

Alliance of the Year

AXIA NetMedia Corporation. - Calgary, AB

Top Service Launch of the Year

T4G Limited - Toronto, ON

Company of the Year

Research in Motion Limited - Waterloo, ON

Turnaround Company of the Year

SureFire Commerce Inc. - Montreal, PQ

E-Business Enablement of the Year

Burntsand Inc. - Toronto, ON

Up and Comer of the Year - Product

e2ms Inc. - Whitby, ON

Top Product Launch of the Year

Castek Software Factory Inc. - Toronto, ON

Up and Comer of the Year - Service

Navantis Inc. - Toronto, ON

The adjudication process took two weeks to complete at which time a panel of five financial and IT industry experts had the task of selecting the final winners. The judges included Christopher M. Henley, President of Henley Capital Corporation and Chair of the Judging Panel; Mike Laginski, President and CEO at LumaPath Inc.; Dean MacDonald, Vice President of Government Relations for Rogers Communications; Colleen Salo, General Partner of Newbury Ventures, and Guthrie Stewart, Former Executive VP, Global Development for Teleglobe Group.

"In a year in which the technology sector and the Software and IT Services industry, in particular, has experienced a contraction in its business it was extremely pleasing to see the outstanding quality of the applications received from across the country. The results these companies have achieved during such a difficult period is remarkable and is a true testament to the underlying strength of this large and important sector of the Canadian economy," offered Christopher M. Henley, Chair, Branham Awards Judging Panel.

"We began this program as a celebration of the phenomenal achievements of the Canadian Information Technology Industry. Branham Group, being Canadian-born, understands the exceptional level of talent we have here on our home soil", said J. Wayne Gudbranson, President and CEO of Branham Group Inc. "It was our goal to ensure that the crème de la crème of our nation's finest companies gain the invaluable recognition they deserve. Based on the outstanding quality of the many applications we received, it became more evident than ever that the services and products Canadian firms deliver to the marketplace is extraordinary".

The Branham 2001 Awards sponsors included Ernst & Young, Export Development Corporation, Fraser Milner Casgrain, LLP, General Assembly Production Centre (GAPC), Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Ltd., Hewson Bridge+Smith, Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC), The Lowe-Martin Group, National Post newspaper, National Post Business Magazine, OCRI, Plesman Communications, TalentLab Inc., TELAV/I.S.T.S and Verrecchia Group Communications Inc.

About Branham Group Inc. (www.branhamgroup.com)

Since its inception in 1990, Branham Group Inc. has been providing "Go-to-Market" consulting services to information technology companies in Canada and worldwide. Branham Group assists companies in achieving market success through its planning, marketing and partnering services. As a Canadian-based company, Branham has been keenly interested in raising the visibility of and recognizing excellence in the Canadian Information Technology industry. Since March 1993, Branham Group has published a listing of Canada's top information technology companies - The Branham 300. Widely considered to be the most comprehensive listing of publicly traded and privately held IT companies in Canada, it is published annually in the March issue of National Post Business Magazine.

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2001 BRANHAM AWARD WINNERS' PROFILES

Alliance of the Year Winner

AXIA NetMedia Corporation creates and manages e-learning content as well as leading-edge networks and hosting environments. Its solutions power people to perform better in the knowledge economy. www.axia.com

Alliance of the Year is presented to a company who has secured and/or maximized an alliance, ranging anywhere from a strategic marketing agreement to an acquisition, that will contribute significantly to achieving its corporate goals and objectives.

Company of the Year Winner

Research in Motion Limited (RIM) is a leading designer, manufacturer and marketer of innovative wireless solutions for the mobile communications market. Through development and integration of hardware, software and services, RIM provides solutions for seamless access to time-sensitive information, including e-mail, messaging, Internet- and intranet-based applications. www.rim.com

Company of the Year is given to an established company that has demonstrated through exceptional leadership its ability to achieve corporate goals and objectives. Its superb management, great team and proven portfolio of products and services have made this company a global market leader. Its track record of innovation ensures that it will continue to be a market leader in years to come.

E-Business Enablement of the Year Winner

Burntsand Inc. is a successful North American e-business solutions integration firm built on a strong foundation of business fundamentals and profitability. Burntsand's success results from the ability to create tangible business value for clients in the SellSide and BuySide areas of e-commerce, relationship management and content management and InSide application areas such as business intelligence and knowledge management solutions. Burntsand services encompass the strategy and the technical and creative disciplines required to define and implement these strategic e-business solutions. www.burntsand.com

e-Business Enablement of the Year is presented to a company that has utilized some or all of its products and/or services for its own internal e-business/IT use. In essence, the company practices what it preaches.

Top Product Launch of the Year Winner

Castek Software Factory Inc. develops enterprise software for Global 2000 financial services organizations that directly enables business users and takes information technology off the critical path. Castek's current area of focus is the global property and casualty insurance industry where it is recognized as the leading vendor of advanced, flexible core insurance business systems. www.castek.com

Top Product Launch of the Year is presented to a company who has launched a new or significantly enhanced existing product that has captured the imagination of the market and delivered clear added value. This product launch has enabled the company to enhance its market share and leadership as well as increasing revenues.

Top Service Launch of the Year Winner

T4G Limited is an end-to-end technology services organization made up of talented and creative individuals who share a passion for emerging technologies, and a commitment to client service. Since its inception in 1995, the company has gone on to distinguish itself as an award-winning solutions provider. It is now capable of delivering sophisticated, end-to-end solutions across the spectrum of information delivery opportunities. www.t4g.com

Top Service Launch of the Year is presented to a company who has launched a new or significantly enhanced service that is addressing a real market challenge and delivering clear value to customers. This service launch has enabled the company to enhance its market share and leadership as well as increasing revenues.

Turnaround Company of the Year Winner

SureFire Commerce Inc. is a global business-to-business provider of proprietary e-commerce solutions in the areas of secure online payments and business enablement. Employing 270 in Montreal, Hull, Quebec and London, England, SureFire delivers the Internet's most comprehensive e-commerce services to a wide range of online merchants. www.sfcommerce.com

Turnaround Company of the Year is presented to an existing company who has altered its strategic direction, which resulted in a new business plan and an expanding revenue base. This company is led by a strong management team who recognizes that accelerated growth requires decisive action.

Up and Comer of the Year - Product - Winner

e2ms Inc. is an energy management pioneer, a technology leader in Internet-based and real-time energy management and control systems. e2ms systems enable industrial, commercial and institutional energy users to manage their costs through the unprecedented changes in today's energy markets. By monitoring and controlling electricity, natural gas and water use systems, e2ms has helped companies reduce energy costs by millions of dollars. www.e2ms.com

Up & Comer of the Year - Product - honors an early stage technology product company that has been established for less than three years and has fewer than 50 employees. This company has introduced an innovative product that has great market potential and which has positioned this firm for future success.

Up and Comer of the Year - Service - Winner

Navantis Inc. is a leading technology solutions-focused professional services firm with a global perspective. Its solutions address enterprise application integration, financial transactions, knowledge management, content management, customer relationship management, multimedia, mobile, customer self-service, workflow improvement and infrastructure opportunities. It offers clients strategic services, design, development, deployment and infrastructure support. Its dedicated team of software engineers, multimedia designers, business analysts, developers, and professional support staff are able to support the largest enterprise initiatives. www.navantis.com

Up & Comer of the Year - Service - honors an early stage technology service company that has been established for less than 3 years and has fewer than 100 employees. This company has introduced an innovative service with great market potential and which has positioned this firm for future success.