

Top Technology Companies for 2002 Branham Awards Announced at Black-tie Gala

Friday, September 27, 2002

Canadian technology companies were recognized last night at the second annual Branham Awards gala at the York Theatre in Toronto. The winners were revealed in one of the 8 categories, which ranged from products to services, to transformation and the all-encompassing "company of the year" were selected from twenty-four finalists by a panel of technology and financial judges. This is the second year Technology Go-to-Market Consulting firm Branham Group Inc. hosted this opportunity to network and celebrate Canada's leadership in information technology innovation.

Of the group of finalists, awards went home with three companies from each of Ontario and Quebec, while recipients from Alberta and British Columbia received the other two Branham Awards. More than 400 CEOs, Presidents and senior level executives of many of the top IT companies attended the ceremonies.

"Canada has an amazing spectrum of technology companies that are not only surviving but growing," said Christopher M. Henley, Chair of the Judging Panel and President of Henley Capital Corporation. "While the perception of a slump in the industry is not unfounded, these winners have proven that innovative products and/or services as well as strategic marketing are the key to success. They deserve our support as they continue to assure Canada's technological leadership. Congratulations to them all!"

"Being a Canadian company, Branham Group Inc. understands the need to promote and highlight areas of success as these awards are meant to do," said J. Wayne Gudbranson, President and CEO of Branham Group Inc. "We strongly believe that by recognizing and rewarding the industry as a whole, we realize that Canada plays second fiddle to no one. There are no losers here, congratulations to all finalists and winners. We look forward to hearing from you again next year."

The winners for each of the eight award categories, in alphabetical order, are:

Alliance of the Year - *A company that has secured and/or maximized an alliance, that will contribute significantly to achieving its corporate goals and objectives.*

20-20 Technologies Inc. Laval QC

Company of the Year - *An established company that has demonstrated through exceptional leadership its ability to achieve corporate goals and objectives.*

CGI Group Inc. Montreal QC

E-Business Enablement of the Year - *A company that has utilized some or all of its products and/or services for its own internal e-business/IT use.*

Compugen Inc. Richmond Hill ON

Top Product Launch of the Year - *A company that has launched a new or significantly enhanced an existing product that has captured the imagination of the market and delivered clear added value.*

ACD Systems Ltd. Saanichton BC

Top Service Launch of the Year - *A company that has launched a new or significantly enhanced service that is addressing a real market challenge and delivering clear value to customers.*

Axia NetMedia Corporation Calgary AB

Transformation Company of the Year - *An existing company that has altered its strategic direction, which resulted in a new business plan and an expanding revenue base.*

Castek Inc. Toronto ON

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

iPerceptions Inc. Montreal QC

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

Questcom Consulting Inc. Ottawa ON

The overall process of choosing these finalists took significant time to complete and then the panel of four financial and IT industry experts went through the difficult task of selecting the final winners. The judges included Christopher M. Henley, Chair of Judging Panel, President of Henley Capital Corporation; Mike Laginski, President and CEO at LumaPath Inc; Colleen Salo, General Partner of Newbury Ventures and Guthrie Stewart, Partner at EdgeStone Capital Partners

Premier sponsors for the event include: Business Development Bank of Canada (www.bdc.ca) Ernst & Young (www.ey.com), Export Development Canada (www.edc.ca), Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP (www.fmc-law.com), Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Ltd. (www.hp.ca), Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC) (www.itac.ca), Korn/Ferry International (www.kornferry.com), Microsoft Canada Co. (www.microsoft.com/canada), National Post newspaper (www.nationalpost.com), National Post Business Magazine (www.nationalpostbusiness.com), ITBusiness Group (www.itbusiness.ca), Hewson Bridge + Smith (www.hbs.ca) Hill and Knowlton (www.hillandknowlton.ca) and York Technology Association (www.yorktech.ca). Corporate sponsors include: AVW-TELAV (www.telav.com), Communitech Technology Association (www.communitech.org), General Assembly Production Centre (GAPC) (www.gapc.com) and The Lowe Martin Group (www.lmgroupp.com).

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

Branham Group Inc. is a leading international "Go-to-Market" consulting firm with a proven formula for helping information technology companies achieve market success. Branham conducts work not only in Canada, but also in the United States, Europe, Latin America and Asia, providing the firm with a global market perspective. Branham assists companies in the three critical areas to improve business performance – Planning, Marketing and Partnering.

For further information:

Branham Group Inc. Contact: Lisa Anderson Marketing and Communications Specialist 613-745-2282 ext. 26
landerson@branhamgroup.com

Agency Contact: Jeff Myrick Hill and Knowlton Canada 416-413-1218 jeff.myrick@hillandknowlton.ca

2002 BRANHAM AWARD WINNERS' PROFILES

Alliance of the Year - *A company that has secured and/or maximized an alliance, that will contribute significantly to achieving its corporate goals and objectives.*

20-20 Technologies Inc. Laval, QC

Founded in 1985, 20-20 Technologies, Inc. provides the world's leading software for designing interiors. With an installed base of more than 45,000 customers, 20-20 is recognized as the "industry standard" in its field. The company's products are available more than 100 countries and in 13 different languages. 20-20's Design software is the top-selling product in the U.S., Europe, and the rest of the world.

Company of the Year - *An established company that has demonstrated through exceptional leadership its ability to achieve corporate goals and objectives.*

CGI Group Inc. Montreal, QC

Founded in 1976, CGI is the fourth largest independent information technology services firm in North America, based on its headcount of more than 14,600 professionals. CGI provides end-to-end IT services and business solutions to more than 3,000 clients worldwide from more than 60 offices worldwide.

E-Business Enablement of the Year - *A company that has utilized some or all of its products and/or services for its own internal e-business/IT use.*

Compugen Inc. Richmond Hill, ON

Fully Canadian owned and operated, Compugen Inc is one of Canada's largest and fastest growing PC-based systems integrators. For more than 20 years, Compugen has been providing industry-leading information technology solutions and services to medium and large size corporations and continues to grow across Canada with offices in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec City, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria.

Top Product Launch of the Year - *A company that has launched a new or significantly enhanced existing product that has captured the imagination of the market and delivered clear added value.*

ACD Systems Ltd. Saanichton, BC

Headquartered in British Columbia since 1993, ACD Systems International (TSX:ASA) is one of the world's leading developers and marketers of digital imaging software. ACD has penetrated the global marketplace through advanced Internet distribution and strategic partnerships with manufacturers and developers. ACD has millions of consumer users and over 33,000 corporate customers including Northwest Airlines, Microsoft, Boeing, Harvard, and Visa.

Top Service Launch of the Year - *A company that has launched a new or significantly enhanced service that is addressing a real market challenge and delivering clear value to customers.*

Axia NetMedia Corporation Calgary, AB

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

Transformation Company of the Year - *An existing company that has altered its strategic direction, which resulted in a new business plan and an expanding revenue base.*

Castek Inc. Toronto, ON

Castek 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

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

iPerceptions Inc. Montreal QC iPerceptions Inc. is a leader in technologies for accelerating comprehension of the web experience for site owners and their users. iPerceptions specializes in providing unique, "actual" user feedback on leading interactive mediums. Its flagship solution webValidator helps diverse companies to strategically architect and optimize their new or existing web sites, maximizing utility, traffic and perceived value.

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

Questcom Consulting Inc. Ottawa, ON

Questcom Consulting Inc. provides network and computer system integration, business-process reengineering and hardware development services and products. A key ingredient to its success is its people, which they attract through a commitment to quality and success. They take pride in their ability to provide viable and achievable solutions to clients and end-users while maintaining their commitment to the company's mission.