

Premio Venezia 2008 – Awards recognizing Quebec-Italy collaborations THE 2008 WINNERS!

Montreal, October 27, 2008 -

Institutional Collaboration: Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île

Scientific Collaboration: Université de Montréal – Department of Pathology and Cellular Biology

Industrial Collaboration: Plastic Knowledge Inc.

Commercial Collaboration: Dubois Agrinovation Inc.

Special Jury Prize: Cascades Inc.

Montreal, October 26, 2008 – The Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada and its principal partner, Desjardins, are pleased to announce the winners of the 6th edition of the Premio Venezia awards, honouring collaborations between Quebec and Italy in various fields. The winners were announced last Wednesday evening, at a ceremony held at the Marriott Château Champlain Hotel, attended by a large gathering of guests from the business and academic worlds.

The Honorary President of the Premio Venezia, Louis L. Roquet, President and Chief Operating Officer, Desjardins Venture Capital, expressed his delight at the record number and high quality of collaborations submitted this year. "These awards are an excellent opportunity to highlight relationships between organizations in Quebec and Italy that are proving profitable and dynamic, but are not necessarily well known," he explained.

The president of the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada, Albert de Luca, expressed his firm conviction that synergies with Italy will continue to grow. "The collaborations we honour this evening yield encouraging results and generate growth for partners on both sides. I am sure they will encourage other organizations to build bridges of their own across the Atlantic."

The Premio Venezia in the Institutional Collaboration category was awarded to the Commission scolaire de la Pointe-de-l'Île in Montreal for the quality of its exchanges with three teaching institutions in Italy. Mainly centred on a "Food and Tourism" professional training program, these collaborations have had a marked impact on the preparation of students entering the job market.

The Department of Pathology and Cellular Biology at Université de Montréal (Faculty of Medicine) was awarded a Premio Venezia in the category of Scientific Collaboration. This is a new category for 2008. For some years, the Montreal team led by Professor Moïse Bendayan has been sharing expertise with its partners at the Dipartimento di Farmacologia–Giorgio Segre of the University of Siena with the aim of more effectively combating obesity and diabetes.

The jury also made special mention of the complementary efforts and results achieved by Dubois Agrinovation and its Milan-based partner, Protéma Agri, awarding them the Premio Venezia in the Commercial Collaboration category. The company, based in St-Rémi en Montérégie, is a leader in providing solutions to the agricultural sector. It currently markets BioTelo, a biodegradable Italian-made film designed to inhibit weed growth and reduce evaporation by eliminating the contamination problems normally associated with conventional plastic films.

Plastic Knowledge received the Premio Venezia in the category of Industrial Collaboration for its R&D work in microelectronic and nanotechnology conducted with the Italian company Ferrania

Technologies. The joint efforts of the two partners have made possible the manufacture of the first curved liquid crystal colour screen made of plastic, an innovative product with huge market potential.

For the second year, the Premio Venezia jury chose to honour a particularly outstanding entry by awarding a Special Jury Prize. The paper industry giant, Cascades, was commended for its establishment of a co-enterprise with Reno de Medici, a company specializing in recycled cardboard. Respectively ranked 4th and 5th in the European recycled cardboard market, Cascades and Reno de Medici have since climbed to 2nd place by joining forces.

The Jury

Chaired by Claude Demers, President & General Manager of ADRIQ, the Premio Venezia 2008 jury was composed of the following: Jean-Pierre Arsenault, Director of European Operations for MDEIE; Nadia Decobellis, Principal Director, Certification and Consulting Services with Samson Belair/Deloitte Touche; Éric Dequenne, Director for Europe with Investissement Québec; Lionel Gauvin, Vice-president, Business Development Support, Montreal East Region with Desjardins; Paul E. Legault, Lawyer and Partner with Fraser Milner Casgrain; Federico Pasin, Professor and Director of the Baccalauréat en administration des affaires at HEC-Montréal; Federico Stroppiana, President, North and South America Operations with Mondo America Inc.

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Photos of the winners from the event, and further information about all the winning organizations are available on request.