



Norwegian Cleantech company wins at Eurecan European Venture Contest - Barcelona

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14 of Europe's best young high tech companies descended on Barcelona to compete in the final of the Eurecan European Venture Contest with the Norwegian firm RPR Technologies winning the class for 'best cleantech company' and coming a close second to the overall event winner.

The contest saw 724 innovative companies from all sectors and 24 countries qualify throughout 2008 through the calendar of 7 qualifying investment contests hosted in its majority by Europe Unlimited but also by Caja Navarra and Barcelona Activa across Europe. Qualifiers for the final were short listed by over 300 investors and experts as the young companies with the most impressive business and technology potential, both critical factors in today's tightening credit markets and global slow down, and the final brought a high level of competition to Barcelona.

RPR's innovative new technology virtually "peels" off paint instead of using sandblasting or high-pressure water blasting. This is accomplished in a fraction of the time and is significantly cleaner for the environment and safer for operators than traditional paint removal methods (sandblasting and waterblasting).

The RPR machines use a patented process with induction heat to remove paint from steel that is not only cleaner, but also safer for operators and from 2 to 10 times faster than competitive methods, that emit hazardous dust and water waste into the sea and air. The RPR process creates no harmful waste byproducts and allows operators to work quickly, cleanly and safely.

"Being selected as the top cleantech early-stage company in Europe is a huge honor for RPR. In these times of global financial crisis, it is important that the good young companies get help and assistance in order to grow " says Rick Salmon, CEO at RPR Technologies A/S. *"Not only is our product good for the environment, but it also allows our users to be more competitive financially. We believe that the market for ship and offshore repairs will actually increase in light of the current economic conditions and this technology can help protect industry jobs in countries where labor costs are high."*

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Charles Van Costenobel, Director Eurecan (CAN) - Caja Navarra commented “the Eurecan European Venture Contest proves that good technologies will always emerge and succeed, regardless of market conditions. It does not have to be a new blockbuster drug or the next Microsoft to find investment and development partners. The applications of the finalists at the EEVC are everyday processes such as the diagnosis of disease or the generation of energy – we continue to need them and anything that improves their delivery will succeed.”

Europe Unlimited, which organised the contest throughout the year, has seen no shortage of talented companies taking part. William Stevens, CEO commented “Entrepreneurialism is alive and well in Europe – times may be tough right now but it is the ideas of today that fuel the businesses of tomorrow. Some of the world’s leading companies were born during challenging times and they grew strong as a direct result.”

*All 14 Finalists were: Attentio SA/NV (BE), Goa Internet Services SL (ES), Hybrid Nanoclays S.L. (ES), Inmold Biosystems A/S (DK), Intelliglass S.L. (ES), Intrinsic-ID (NL), NsGene A/S (DK), NUUBO (Smart Solutions Technologies) (ES), RESprotect GmbH (DE), RPR Technologies AS (NO), Solarion AG (DE), Spaesuvius VOF (Nulaz) (NL), Therosteon BV (NL), Trovit Search (ES)

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