



Cool judgement



Chairman of the judging panel, Steven Jesseph, chief executive of Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production.



Tannery of the Year judge Kim Reid from British Airways presents the regional award for the Americas to Emilio Bittar of Coming Indústria e Comércio de Couros.



Dr Volkan Candar of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (left) with Thomas Strebst of Heller-Leder, Tannery of the Year for 2011.



Paul Pearson, secretary to the International Council of Tanners, at the 2011 Tannery of the Year Award Gala Dinner.

The ten finalist tanneries were judged on their technical ability, environmental programmes, social responsibility, sustainability, investment, and relationships with customers.

The judging panel for the event comprised four judges from diverse business backgrounds and specialisms. Besides listening to presentations from all the finalists on the day of the event, the judges also read the in-depth reports World Leather has published on all ten tanneries.

Steven A Jesseph, chief executive of Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP), a non-profit, factory certification group, chaired the panel. WRAP certifies factories to a 12-point code of conduct covering legal, labour, environmental, security and customs compliance areas for labour-intensive consumer products manufacturing. It is supported by 22 international trade and business associations and has certified factories in over 72 countries. Prior to joining WRAP, Mr Jesseph was the vice-president for compliance and risk management at Sara Lee Branded Apparel. His responsibilities included environment, health and safety, product liability, social compliance for operations in more than 30 countries. He was the founding chair of the Social Responsibility Committee of the American Apparel & Footwear Association.

Kim Reid is currently head of leadership and talent at British Airways (BA). Her roles include identifying and developing people to their highest potential at all levels in the organisation. She is also involved in much of British Airways'

charitable work. Prior to joining BA, Ms Reid was global human resources (HR) director of MBDA, a joint venture set up by leading aerospace groups EADS, BAe Systems and Finmeccanica. Her primary role was to establish cross-border HR strategies and working practices. Previously she was HR director of the customer support and solutions division of BAe Systems, a highly innovative team whose function was to supply complete solutions to BAe's customers. Prior to this position, she was head of young people, education and charities at BAe Systems.

Dr Volkan Candar is the vice-president of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS) and will serve as president of the organisation in 2012 and 2013. He is the global research and development and application manager at Pulcra Chemicals. He is also the Leather Business Manager and an Executive Member of Pulcra Turkey.

Paul Pearson is secretary to the International Council of Tanners (ICT), a role he has carried out since December 1997. He is also the director of the UK Leather Federation. With a history of work in trade associations, including 14 years with the Food and Drink Federation, Mr Pearson joined the British Leather Confederation (BLC) in 1988 and has also acted as secretary to BLC Research, and director of the Hide and Allied Trades Improvement Society. His areas of special interest and expertise include raw material supplies and quality, environmental legislation, international trade and statistics. 🌐



On the supply side

A new element for this second Tannery of the Year Gala Dinner was an extra set of awards, recognising the support the best tanneries in the world receive from chemical, machinery and raw material suppliers. During the visits the World Leather team made to the tanneries, all ten finalists completed a questionnaire, asking them to confirm which suppliers they worked with from a list of prominent international companies, and then to nominate the companies they felt deserved to be Supplier of the Year.

When all the scores came in, specialty chemicals suppliers BASF and Lanxess emerged with an equal number of votes, making them joint-winners, with Stahl picking up a Highly Commended award in third place.

Following the presentation, Dr Dietrich Tegtmeier, vice-president for product development and application at the Lanxess Leather business unit, said his company was committed to sustainable leather management and wanted to keep finding ways of introducing the cleaner and greener products he says customer organisations are asking for.

"Finishing is not the issue for the environment," he said. "The issue is the beamhouse. We've now introduced X-Tan and we believe it ticks all the boxes. Other projects we have for the wet end include new chemicals for retanning and ways for tanners to use less salt. We believe this is the right step to take and the interest from customers already is enormous."

Thomas Sattler, BASF's vice-president for leather chemicals, said his company has also been working hard to offer the best possible solutions to the tanning industry. He said he



The BASF team celebrates becoming joint-winners of Supplier of the Year.



Lanxess success: the team celebrates being co-winners of Supplier of the Year.

thought receiving the Supplier of the Year Award suggested that these efforts are bearing fruit. He paid tribute to the trust and relationships that BASF has built with its customers over the years. "The best proof of

all the hard work and efforts is the recognition from our customers," he said. "We are proud to know that our products and solutions have helped our customers to become more successful." ☺

Hall of Fame

Two cycles of Tannery of the Year mean that 20 world-class tanneries have now opened their doors to *World Leather* to demonstrate their commitment to excellence in environmental and social responsibilities in the leather industry. They have done so in the knowledge that the information will be openly disseminated across the sector, to their customers and consumers world wide.

These tanners have raised the perception of the leather industry on a global stage and fully merit a place in the Tannery of the Year Hall of Fame. In only a few months, the third cycle of the competition will begin and new tanneries will come forward to share their vision and tell their stories.

We look forward to all the fun beginning again. ☺