



Third Tannery of the Year programme kicks off

Now in its third edition, Tannery of the Year, the industry's platform for celebrating its best examples of excellence in corporate social responsibility, has more momentum behind it than ever.



We are pleased to announce the launch the 2012–2013 Tannery of the Year competition, aiming to find the best examples of tanneries across the world that have built the principles of corporate social responsibility into their way of working.

This is the magazine's third running of the Awards programme, with the last culminating in Heller-Leder from Germany picking up the global award at a gala dinner in Shanghai in September 2011.

All Tanneries of the Year nominees are 100% committed to corporate social responsibility, working as hard as they can to help the communities with which they share energy, water and other resources and making the least impact they possibly can on the environment. They are also sound businesses and operate on a stable and sustainable financial platform. They are all excellent examples of best practice in the leather industry.

World Leather is grateful for the important backing Tannery of the Year has from the APLF exhibition, chemical manufacturers BASF, Lanxess and Buckman, the International Council of Tanners, the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies and Washington DC-based campaign body Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production.

This time there were nine shortlisted tanneries from Europe, from which two finalists have emerged. The shortlisted tanneries were (in alphabetical order):

- **António Nunes de Carvalho, Alcanena, Portugal.** The Carvalho tannery in Alcanena is a modern plant surrounded by countryside (it's right on the edge of a national park) with a well laid out workflow to help it offer a just-in-time solution. It serves a wide variety of industries including automotive, furniture, footwear and leathergoods. It has ISO and Oeko-Tex certification and in recent years launched OakLeather, which it describes as being "completely ecological".
- **Bader, Göppingen, Germany.** Now a specialist in automotive leather, Bader has been in business since 1872. Its commitment to the environment means the company uses water-based finishing systems to reduce solvent emissions and a large proportion of the tanning agents used is recovered for recycling.
- **Conceria Montebello, Montebello, Italy.** Conceria Montebello produces cow and calf grain leather and splits for the clothing, furnishing and interior design, leatherwear and footwear sectors. It collaborates with the biggest names in the fashion world, and exports its leather all over the world. It was established in 1967 by Giuseppe Dalle Mese. It now employs more than 200 people.

- **Gruppo Dani, Arzignano, Italy.** A well established, full-service tannery in the Arzignano cluster, with distinct chrome-tanning and, to serve the automotive industry, chrome-free production lines. The company is a pioneer in terms of outreach to the local community, local universities and wider groups pushing for excellence in terms of quality and the environment.
- **Industrias del Curtido SA (Incusa), Silla, Valencia, Spain.** Incusa made headlines in 2011 thanks to a project with leather and footwear research institute Inescop. It began to use titanium instead of chromium to tan footwear leather and has since said it is devoting 25% of its production capacity to the new product. The company has said it regards titanium-tanning as a good option because supplies of titanium are plentiful and the metal is hypoallergenic.
- **Marmara Deri, Çorlu, Turkey.** A specialist in nappa and double-face, Marmara has its base in the industrial town of Çorlu, close to the border with Bulgaria and Greece. It supplies two principal products, nappa and double-face, to high-end fashion companies around the world, with the tannery's own research and development department continuously looking for ways to improve quality.
- **Sepici Grubu, Caybasi-Izmir, Turkey.** An extensive and well equipped full-service tannery close to Izmir with distinct production lines for chrome tanning, vegetable tanning and sole leather. It has a strong commitment to quality and imports much of its raw material from northern Europe. Customers include many big-name fashion houses.
- **W.J & W Lang, Paisley, Scotland.** W.J & W Lang celebrates its 140th anniversary in 2012 and is the oldest manufacturing company in the town of Paisley still producing on its original site. The company employs 60 people and has increased turnover substantially in the last few years as well as making considerable investments in new technology and in research and development. It is part of the Scottish Leather Group, producing wet blue and wet white for finishing at the group's other tanneries to supply finished leather to many of the world's major airlines and car manufacturers.
- **Wollsdorf Leder, Wollsdorf, Austria.** Wollsdorf Leather is an Austrian company specialising in leather for the automotive, upholstery, marine and aircraft industries. It exports more than 90% of its production to clients including high-end automotive brands such as Maserati and Maybach and airlines large and small. Its commitment to quality includes sourcing most of its raw material from Alpine regions and central Europe.

Detailed reports on the work of the two finalists follow. 🌐