

MEDIA RELEASE: 2017 PREMIER'S NSW EXPORT AWARDS

Leading export businesses have been announced at the 2017 Premier's NSW Export Awards, which were held at the Star last night (Wednesday 25 October 2017).

Soprano Design has taken out the top prize of the evening – the Premier's NSW Exporter of the Year Award – as well as the Digital Technologies award. Founded in 1994, Soprano Design is an award-winning global software design firm headquartered in Sydney, Australia. Soprano first expanded internationally in 2010 and has since grown into North America, Europe, Southeast Asia, South America, and New Zealand. Soprano now earns more than 75% of its revenue outside of Australia and locates more than 65% of its employees internationally.

The Hon. Niall Blair congratulated all 22 award winners who were recognised for their business excellence.

"Exporters bring the ideas, ambition and a can-do attitude that our economy needs to grow. Tonight's award winners demonstrate these characteristics in spades," Mr Blair said.

"This Government knows how important our exporters are - that's why we have staff across the state dedicated to helping these businesses grow or to export for the first time.

"It's also terrific to see four regional winners amongst the state's most enterprising export businesses, proving that geography is no barrier to international success."

Chief Executive Officer of the Export Council of Australia (ECA) Lisa McAuley said as a leading advocate for international trade, the ECA, in conjunction with the NSW Government, were honoured to manage this state-wide competition where nominees secure their reputation on the world stage.

"Acknowledging exporters is vital in building awareness of new market opportunities available to business owners. We are seeing more and more new companies that are exporting their goods and services with excellent results and now is the time to focus on how we can help build on NSW's trade capabilities and encourage more companies to look at the global opportunities that are opening up," Ms McAuley said.

"These awards acknowledge the significant achievements that exporters have made to improving the State's economic activity and boosting jobs.

"NSW businesses have the innovation, expertise and professionalism to take on international markets, and it is important that we recognise their hard work and determination to succeed.

"Whether small or large, these businesses prove that they have what it takes to succeed on an increasingly competitive world stage," Ms McAuley said.

Annually exporters make a significant contribution to the NSW economy, with goods and services exports worth \$81bn in 2016-17 according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics figures.

2017 Premier's NSW Export Awards Winners

NSW Award Categories:

NSW Asian Exporter Award: Glimlife Australia

NSW Innovation in Export Award: Freelancer.com

NSW Export Scholarship Award: Lively Linseed Products

NSW Emerging Exporter Award: Australian Institute of Company Directors

Western Sydney Exporter Award: PPC Moulding Services

NSW Defence Industries Award: ATS

NSW International Development Award Award: Rainman Technology

NSW Women in International Business Award: Jane Lu, Showpo

NSW Export Champion Award: David Mumford, RBK Nutraceuticals

National Award Categories:

Agribusiness: Next Instruments

Business Services: Argyle Hotel Management Group

Creative Industries: Blowfish Studios

Digital Technologies: Soprano Design

E-Commerce: aussieBum

Education & Training: International College of Management Sydney

Environmental Solutions: Nanosonics

Health & Biotechnology: SomnoMed

Manufacturing: Flavourtech

Minerals, Energy & Related Services: Viper Wire Rope Lubricator

Regional Exporter: Riverina Oils & BioEnergy

Small Business: Fin Design + Effects

NSW Exporter of the Year Award: Soprano Design

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