



Press bulletin

Mecal from Enschede nominated for Koning Willem I Award

On 25 June 2010 His Royal Highness the Prince of Oranje will announce the winner of this prestigious national business prize.

Mecal in Enschede is nominated for the prestigious Koning Willem I award. His Royal Highness the Prince of Oranje will present the award on June 25th in the Royal Theatre in The Hague. Gert van der Houwen, secretary of the Koning Willem I foundation, personally visited and informed MECAL of the nomination in the category SME (<250 employees).



MECAL Enschede

Distribution by Prince of Oranje

The Koning Willem I award is presented every two years. This year it will be distributed for the 26th time. His Royal Highness the Prince of Oranje, Honorary President of the Koning Willem I foundation, will present the business prize to the winners in the Royal Theatre in The Hague.

The Koning Willem I foundation

With active support of the Ministry of economic affairs, the Koning Willem I award is granted every two years by the Koning Willem I foundation, founded in 1958, by a number of business related organisations and the Nederlandsche bank.

The goal of the foundation is to stimulate the national economics and, with that, to increase the standing of Dutch businesses. The following organisations are amongst the members of the governing board: The Nederlandsche bank N.V, Ministry of economic affairs, VNO-NCW, MKB-Nederland, NIVE, Dutch society for industry and trade, Dutch quality institute, TNO, Association chambers of commerce and royal institute of engineers.

Since its founding in 1958, Koning Willem I foundation has granted the Koning willem 1 award to a number of leading Dutch companies. For further information see:

www.kw1prijs.nl

About MECAL

MECAL is an independent high-tech engineering office, globally active and with multiple services in three disciplines:

- Semiconductor & Mechatronics
- Wind industry
- Vision & Optronics

Set up in 1989, as a spin-off of the Technical University Twente, MECAL has its head office in Enschede, there are also offices in Groningen, Veldhoven, Barendrecht – Tokyo, Japan and Richmond in the US.

MECAL employs 100 experienced professionals, with 15 different nationalities, worldwide.

To create a high as possible value for its customers MECAL analyses, consults, designs, engineers, develops and incorporates sophisticated solutions. The internationally talented employees in multidisciplinary teams are able to translate ideas into real, commercial solutions. MECAL works closely with its customers and has gained the reputation to offer the best possible solutions.

Together with a select group of partners MECAL works towards global marketing and development, independent of geographical boundaries.

In the field of independent wind turbine engineering and inspections MECAL is market leader in the Netherlands and more than 20 years active in the international wind industry. With its prominent role MECAL has made a successful contribution to a large

number of projects both in the field and in R&D. With innovative solutions as for example the Hybrid Wind tower of ATS MECAL (a subsidiary company of MECAL) and a complete turbine development MECAL has a unique expert position.

MECAL plays a leading role in the use of model-based high-tech mechatronica development. In the Veldhoven office a group of specialists uses this method for the development of the newest front-end lithographic systems.

In the past decade MECAL used the model-based development methods for the development and realisation of mechatronic systems for system builders in The Netherlands and abroad.

MECAL developed a broad range of activities and products among which:

- passive and active ultrasound heat insulation systems
- dynamically balanced robots and manipulators for placing SMT components

New to MECAL is their Vision & Optronics expertise. The use of the combination of light and image recognition provides a complementary value:

- high value camera based inspections and observation systems
- development and prototyping of medical instrumentation

A good example of the combination of MECAL competences is the development of 3Nethra, a pre-diagnostic eye scanner with which an enormous number of people in developing countries can be provided with excellent basic eye examination. This has aroused large interest worldwide.

In these development projects MECAL is responsible for the whole route from concept development up to the realisation. For further information see: www.mecal.eu

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Additional information

Other nominees

In the presence of His royal highness the prince of Oranje, honorary president of the Koning Willem I foundation, the governing board, thereby supported by four regional selection commissions, has nominated the following six companies for the Koning Willem I prize (in alphabetical order):

Three nominees big company (more than 250 employees)

- Royal Ten Cate NV (Almelo)
- Stage Entertainment (Amsterdam)
- VDL group BV (Eindhoven)

Three nominees SME (<250 employees)

- Adams Musical instruments BV (Ittervoort)
- Bencom BV (Usquert)
- Mecal BV (Enschede)

Since its founding in 1958, Koning Willem I foundation handed the prize to:

2008 Fugro en Solland Solar

2006 ASML

2003 Oad Groep B.V.

2002 Mammoet Holding B.V.
2000 Heineken N.V.
1998 Akzo Nobel N.V.
1996 Randstad Holding N.V.
1994 Koninklijke Ahold N.V.
1992 Koninklijke Nijverdal – Ten Cate N.V.
1990 N.V. Koninklijke Nederlandse Vliegtuigenfabriek Fokker
1988 DAF B.V.
1986 Coöperatieve Vereniging “ Ver. Bloemenveilingen Aalsmeer”
1984 Gist Brocades N.V.
1982 Koninklijke Boskalis Westminster N.V.
1980 Koninklijk Kweekbedrijf en Zaadhandel D.J. van der Have B.V.
1978 N.V. Indivers
1976 Vitatron N.V.
1972 N.V. Nederlandse Metaalindustrie Polynorm
1970 Machinefabriek Van Aarsen
1968 Prins N.V.
1966 N.V. Koni
1964 N.V. Maatschappij voor Wasverwerking Erdal
1962 N.V. Lips
1960 Fabriek van Landwerktuigen VICON
1958 Chemische Industrie GEM

[Note for the editors \(not for publication\)](#)

[For further information:](#)

King Willem I foundation

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A photograph with high resolution is available at MECAL.