

“Entrepreneur Of The Year” Promoting entrepreneurship

In 2008, Ernst & Young awarded the eleventh Entrepreneur of the Year prize, regarded by the Swiss business world as the highest of honors.

Of the 34 prize winners to date, only one is no longer in business. On top of an already proud tradition, it is that extraordinary record of success that has given the award its outstanding reputation. Not only that, but the Entrepreneur Of The Year program is the only one of its kind with a global dimension to it; Ernst & Young applies uniform criteria to the selection of prize winners from 48 countries, one of whom will receive the supreme accolade as World Entrepreneur Of The Year.

The prize is awarded in three categories - Service, Industry, and High Tech/Life Sciences. There is also the category of Master Entrepreneur - a lifetime achievement award. The jury then chooses, from among the winners in the various categories, an Entrepreneur Of The Year to take part in the global competition. The prize is not awarded to companies but to individuals, who must have an influence beyond their own company in the wider world and in the sphere of policymaking. By means of this program for promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial spirit, Ernst & Young seeks to live out its principle of “Achieving Potential - Making a Difference” in the wider society.

The process of selection and evaluation is independent of Ernst & Young, and candidates need not be clients. Although Ernst & Young provides the infrastructure and conducts initial interviews, the final assessments and the final decision are in the hands of an independent jury. The criteria are, first of all, the entrepreneur’s personality, followed by growth in the shape of strong and profitable expansion reflected in turnover and jobs created. The third requirement is a global impact, with success being recognized beyond the candidate’s own country. The fourth is innovation in terms of processes and products. The

candidates must be willing to have all their books and records inspected: Entrepreneur Of The Year is the only business competition of its kind in which the candidates are interviewed face-to-face and have their annual accounts and auditors’ reports reviewed. As Heinrich Christen, the partner in charge of Entrepreneur of the Year, explains, “The process is extraordinarily laborious, but that is what gives the prize its reputation.” Some 60 dossiers are scrutinized every year.

THE WORLD ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR IS SWISS



Dr. Jean-Paul Clozel, founder of the Swiss pharmaceutical company Actelion, is the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur Of The Year 2008, selected in Monte Carlo from among top entrepreneurs representing 48 countries. This extraordinary honor, which may well take years to again fall to a representative of such a small country, pays tribute to innovative

entrepreneurship in Switzerland generally, while also reflecting the quality of the Entrepreneur Of The Year program and its high status there.

Jean-Paul Clozel, a cardiologist, founded Actelion Pharmaceuticals in 1997 together with his wife Martine and two colleagues, having previously spent 12 years as a manager in the research division at Roche. Within ten years, he managed to build Actelion from nothing to a global business with over 1,800 employees in 24 countries, CHF 1.4 billion in turnover and a market value approaching CHF 7 billion. Actelion's development is one of the most tremendous success stories from the complex and fiercely-contested biotech sector anywhere in the world. The group is a leader in the development of low-molecular medicines for the treatment of lung diseases. Its products have improved the quality

of life for many thousands of patients throughout the world.

To Actelion, Jean-Paul Clozel contributes his near-inexhaustible energy and creativity as its CEO and as a member of the Board of Directors. "His vision and passion have made this triumph possible. Through his leadership of Actelion, Jean-Paul Clozel has epitomized the entrepreneurial spirit in an outstanding way. Real entrepreneurs achieve great things and make a real difference to their customers, their employees, their communities and the global economy," said Jim Turley, Global Chairman and CEO of Ernst & Young, as he presented the prize to the World Entrepreneur Of The Year.
