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MONSOON AQUATICS CROWNED 25th NORTHERN TERRITORY EXPORTER OF THE YEAR

Embargoed till 8.00am Friday 28 September

Over 200 guests attended the 25th Chief Minister's NT Export & Industry Awards yesterday at a gala dinner presentation at SKYCITY Darwin with the Chief Minister, The Hon. Michael Gunner MLA.

Awards were given across 16 categories including eight export award winners, five local industry awards and international student and business student categories.

Monsoon Aquatics won the prestigious 'Northern Territory Exporter of the Year' Award from a high class field of nominations.

Owned and operated since 2008 Monsoon Aquatics collect live coral and native Australian fish from some of the Northern Territory's most remote locations and supply to the international market.

Monsoon Aquatics were the first to export Territory coral to an international market in 2011. Since then, international sales have continued to grow, up by 50% in one year, with the product going to Asia, North America, Europe and Africa.

Monsoon expanded their collection area to include Queensland waters and established a branch in Cairns in 2017. A move into aquaculture has seen Monsoon Aquatics able to supply cultured as well as wild caught product, increase their range and improving their social licence to operate.

Thanks to sustainable collection practices, high standards of animal husbandry, a carefully curated range of product, well researched packing techniques, exceptional customer service and of course the unique and colourful species that are only found in Australian waters, Monsoon Aquatics are successfully competing with international suppliers whose product is supplied at a lower price point.

Monsoon Aquatics are no newbie to the Export Awards, winning the Small Business Award in 2015 and the NT Agribusiness Award in 2014 and 2013.

They will go forward to the national awards as the Territory's Agribusiness finalist, along with winners in 4 other export categories.

The evening saw awards presented to the cream of the NT industry and international business leaders. 2017 national winner, SRA Information Technology was once again awarded the NT Environmental Solutions Award. International College of Advanced Education took out the Education and Training Award for their ongoing success in

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international Vocational Education and Training (VET). SPEE3D were awarded the Manufacturing and the Emerging Exporter Award for the innovative design, research and sale of 3D metal printer, the first of its kind in the world. North Australia Yacht Support took out the Business Services Award for their success in providing support to the growing local Superyacht industry.

Rio Tinto was successful in the Minerals, Energy & Related Services Award, and Australian Blue Cypress was awarded the Small Business Award.

In Territory specific awards, Winnellie Hydraulics picked up the Resources Supply and Service Award and A & B Welding were successful in the Manufacturing Industry Award. The Industry Innovation Award was won by Gessit. Thamarrurr Development Corporation took out the Indigenous Business of the Year Award.

The Local Content Award was taken out by Jemena via nomination for their continued use of the local supply chain in construction of the Northern Gas Pipeline.

The International Student Award went to Benjamin Poveda-Alfonso, a Colombian citizen studying Bachelor of Accounting in the NT and the Business Student of the Year Award went to Kristina Mu, an Australian domestic student, also studying a Bachelor of Accounting in the NT.

Over 200 guests witnessed the awards ceremony conducted by the International Business Council of the Chamber of Commerce NT, with the Hon Michael Gunner MLA, Chief Minister as guest of honour and patron of the Awards.

Chamber of Commerce NT Deputy CEO Brian O’Gallagher congratulated the winners and applauded the high standard of entries in this year’s event. “The 2018 Chief Minister’s Northern Territory Export and Industry Awards have been recognising excellence in international trade and industry for over 25 years and tonight we have seen many outstanding Northern Territory companies recognised for their exceptional contributions.”

He added ‘All these businesses have very different and unique products / services to give, but they have one element in common – that they are representing the Northern Territory and showing that it is an innovative, unique hub of activity and opportunity in our dynamic Asian Region.

Mr O’Gallagher emphasised that these Awards demonstrate the primacy of our local businesses in developing our economy and growing jobs. Yes Government has an important supportive role to play – but it is our businesses that eventually have to take the commercial risk and sign the contracts.

Full list of winners will be available on the IBC website:

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www.abc.org.au (<https://www.chambernt.com.au/abc-content/export-awards/2018winners>)

Ends

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Full List of Winners: see attached

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