

Press Release
Tokyo, January 31, 2018

The French Business Awards 2018 showcase and reward the efforts and successes of French companies in Japan

The CCI France Japon held the 7th edition of its French Business Awards on the same evening as its annual New Year's gathering. This year, 20 companies of various industries and sectors were in competition for 8 awards, which showcase and reward the efforts and successes of companies in Japan.

The CCI France Japon is pleased to announce the results of this competition. The 2018 laureates are: **Valeo Japan** ("Company of the Year" Award), **WEARE Pacific** ("SME" Award), **Odakyu Electric Railway** ("Best Corporate Social Responsibility" Award), **Faurecia Japan** ("Product or Service of the Year" Award), **Finalcad Japan** ("French Tech Tokyo" Award), **Aquabit Spirals** ("Jury's Special Award") and **Lpixel Inc.** ("Best Innovation" Award).

The jury was composed of the Chairman of the CCI France Japon, French and Japanese business leaders as well as a French business journalist. They selected among the nominees the most dynamic, innovative and performing companies with grounded success on the Japanese market.

All 20 companies were a testimony of the diversity, the strength and the polyvalence of French and Japanese businesses. Highly diverse industries were showcased this year; among them automotive, tech, cosmetics and services.

Kicking off the Centenary year of the CCI France Japon (founded in 1918), the French Business Awards 2018 is one of the first events of a year of celebration but certainly not the last. Several events throughout the year will celebrate 100 years of successful cooperation between France and Japan, its partners and the strong ties between French and Japanese companies to pave the way for an even brighter future.



Company of the year 2018: Valeo Japan (through the application of Valeo Transmissions Japan)

(Valeo Japan, Representative Director and President: Ali Ordoobadi;
Valeo Transmissions Japan, President & Representative Director: Denis Franchot)

Valeo Transmissions Japan is an automotive supplier member of Valeo Group and a partner to Japanese automakers. As a technology company, they design innovative solutions with a particular focus on reducing CO2 emissions. Valeo Transmissions Japan is based in Atsugi with its own development centre and factory dedicated to the design and production of transmissions systems (torque-converters) for main Japanese OEM (Nissan, Subaru, Toyota or Jatco among them)



Jury's Special Award 2018: Aquabit Spirals

(CEO: Tomohiro Hagiwara)

AQUABIT SPIRALS Aquabit Spirals creates a "connected life" where physical things and online information directly connect and anyone can reach related online information from things or location without having to make a research.

The company has developed "SmartPlate", a device to connect physical and digital contents with a patented technology. SmartPlate allows end users to access with their mobile related information from things or location by just a tap, no app needed. SmartPlate cloud system manages the contents delivered from each SmartPlate remotely and stores real time access data.

This app-less and battery-less tool has a high potential to be a global standard in content delivery infrastructure for any industries and services.

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**SME Award 2018: WEARE Pacific**
(CEO: Motoharu Teranishi)

WEARE Group is a detailed part manufacturer created by French family companies specialized in precision machining & turning, special treatment, assembly and additive manufacturing. The group gathered all processes to become a fully integrated supplier for the aerospace, defence, automotive, medical and energy industries.

This year, the group expands by creating “WEARE Pacific K.K.”, headquartered in Japan, partnering with a key player in the region: Yamaichi Special Steel Co. Ltd., a Japanese Family company from Nagoya. WEARE Pacific is the next logical step for this French-Japanese partnership after the creation in January 2016 of “Prismadd Japan” dedicated to Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing).

**Best CSR Award 2018: Odakyu Electric Railway**
(General Manager, CSR/Corporate Communications Department:
Kiichiro Aizawa)

Odakyu Electric Railway Co., Ltd. (hereinafter “Odakyu”) operates three lines spanning a total of 120.5 kilometers: the Odawara Line connecting Shinjuku Station in Tokyo with Odawara Station in Kanagawa; the Tama Line, which branches from the Odawara Line at Shin-Yurigaoka Station; and the Enoshima Line, which branches from the Odawara Line at Sagami-Ono Station and runs to Katase-Enoshima Station.

There are 27 municipalities along these lines, including Shinjuku and Shibuya Wards, which are home to 5.09 million residents. Their ridership is 749 million passengers annually, mainly students and workers commuting to central Tokyo and other areas served by the Odakyu Lines. In addition, Odakyu also has a real estate leasing business handling commercial complexes and offices with a total leasing area of 9,491,000 square meters.

In April 2017, Odakyu celebrated its 90th anniversary from the opening of the Odawara Line. During these years, the Odakyu Group has expanded from rail services into transportation, real estate, merchandising including department stores and supermarkets, and the hotel and restaurant business. They continue on improving their services to increase the value of the areas along the Odakyu lines and to win the high regard of their customers.

**Product / Service of the Year 2018: Faurecia Japan**
(President: Olivier Fidry)

Nissan just officially released last December the new Infiniti SUV QX50 where Faurecia is delivering the instrument panel and central console. Faurecia has brought brand new technology and innovations to Nissan with a premium execution including cut & sew and unique wood, and alu decorations. It is the first time that Nissan has selected a supplier against its own keiretsu, and moreover for its premium brand Infiniti, the project was supported by Nissan Design, Infiniti Engineering and RNPO top management with the ambition to compete with the German premium brands. Full development and prototypes have been done in Japan for the first time ever as well bringing Mercedes like technology.

**French Tech Tokyo Award 2018: FinalCad**
(Managing Director: Baptiste Joyeaux)

FINALCAD is a global leader in digital transformation for construction, infrastructure, energy and concessions. Its mobile apps and predictive analytics helps contractors, developers, architects and field operators with quality control, defect management and progress monitoring. Since 2011, FINALCAD has been delivering more than 15,000 projects in 35 countries.

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**Innovation Award 2018: LPixel**

(General Manager, Research Business Department: Junichi Shibuya)

LPixel, a spin-out venture from the University of Tokyo, is a leader in advanced image analysis systems for life science research. LPixel's strength lies in unifying imaging technology and its expertise in the life sciences. LPixel is currently involved in three national projects including ImPACT led by the Cabinet Office, CREST funded by Japan Science and Technology Agency, and various other projects funded by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. LPixel's solutions include IMACEL, an AI-based image analysis cloud platform catered for life science research, and EIRL, an AI medical image analysis diagnostic support technology designed to detect cancers and other medical anomalies.

About the French Business Awards

This annual competition rewards the best performing member-companies of the CCI France Japon in 2017 (activities, projects, results).

The competition awards prizes in seven categories:

“Company of the Year” Award: this award rewards an outstanding company that has shown excellent performance and achievements in all aspects of its organization.

“Jury’s Special Award”: this juried award is bestowed to the jury’s « coup de coeur » chosen from the official nominees.

“Best SME/Entrepreneur” Award: this prize is for the best SME or the best entrepreneur in the light of their recent achievements.

“Product/Service of the Year” Award: this award distinguishes the most innovative, original and/or successful service or product developed and marketed in or for Japan.

“French Tech Tokyo” Award: this prize rewards the digital start-up displaying the highest potential of growth, outstanding originality in their project as well as the most forward-thinking and innovative ideas.

“Best CSR” (Corporate Social Responsibility) Award: this award is granted to the company whose business practices benefit society and environment most.

“Best Innovation” Award: this prize is given to the most innovative company or SME (proven competence in R&D, launch of a revolutionary product or service, leader in a niche market, etc.)

The Jury of the French Business Awards

- Bernard DELMAS: Chairman of the CCI France Japon and Chairman of Nihon Michelin Tire
- Tomoko TANAKA: Senior Manager at Orange Japan
- Atsushi NAKAJIMA: Chairman of the Research Institute of Economy Trade and Industry, IAA (RIETI)
- Yann ROUSSEAU: Japan Bureau Chief of the French business newspaper “Les Échos”
- Armel CAHIERRE: Board member of the CCI France Japon, CEO and Founder of B4F (Milleporte.com)

2018 Nominees

20 companies in total were nominated on the basis of their applications:

Company of the Year (5 nominees)

- CLEADASIE JAPAN KK
- NINAPHARM JAPAN
- PEUGEOT CITROEN JAPAN
- VALEO TRANSMISSIONS JAPAN KK
- WEARE PACIFIC

Product/Service of the Year (3 nominees)

- AKISHIMA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY
- FAURECIA JAPAN
- KAWASAKI MACHINE INDUSTRY

Corporate Social Responsibility (4 nominees)

- ALTAVIA JAPAN

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- JK HOLDINGS JK
- ODAKYU ELECTRIC RAILWAYS CO., LTD
- SAPPORO HOLDINGS LTD

French Tech Tokyo 2018 (8 nominees)

- AQUABIT SPIRALS
- FINALCAD
- IKKAI
- INSTITUTION FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY
- LPIXEL
- NEXT LEVEL JAPAN
- SECURE-IC
- WENOTECH

About the CCI France Japon (French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan)

The CCI France Japon is the **first European Chamber in Japan** thanks to a wide network of more than 590 member companies from various sectors (one-third being Japanese companies). Founded in 1918, the Chamber **celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2018**. The Centenary of the French Chamber will be celebrated throughout the year thanks to a series of exceptional events of which the highlight will be a **full-day Business Summit on November 19, 2018** at NIKKEI HALL.

The CCI France Japon is also part of a worldwide network of 30.000 companies, members of the **120 French Chambers based in 90 countries**. The CCI France Japon is a member of the **European Business Council**, a strong lobbying force interacting with the Japanese Government with the help of its 29 sectorial committees.

The Chamber is a **business club**: more than **100 events are organized every year**, giving direct access to business and influence networks. The Chamber's publications provide an original and informative point of view on the Japanese market. The Chamber's employment and training service is a professional tool to hire and train teams in Japan. And last but not least, the business and start-up support service helps French companies with market research, setting up new offices, providing canvassing and commercial support, finding partners, lending of equipped offices in Japan, among others.

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