

PRESS RELEASE

Team of PepsiCo placement students take gold at Ecotrophelia UK

5 June 2015

A team of PepsiCo placement students has been awarded the gold prize at the 2015 Ecotrophelia UK competition.

The Medina team made up of representatives from five UK universities has been awarded the gold prize at Ecotrophelia 2015 for their Medina Bites, cocoa, coconut, raisin and seed bites, rolled in freeze-dried fruit and desiccated coconut. Along with a £2,000 cash prize, the team will be invited to become IFST Young Ambassadors, and will receive a one-year IFST membership and a number of Elsevier food science publications.

The UK heat of this Europe-wide competition was organised by UK food and drink research organisation, Campden BRI, in conjunction with the Institute of Food Science & Technology (IFST), the independent qualifying body for food professionals in Europe. The competition challenges students interested in a career in the food industry to design an eco-friendly, innovative food or beverage product with commercial potential. This year, a record eleven UK universities were represented in the final.

The Trinity team from Leeds Trinity University was awarded the silver prize and £1,000 for their Cauliflower style rice, 100% cauliflower, shredded and packed into a recycled pot. The bronze prize and £500 was awarded to the Duffleaters team from University of Nottingham for Duffles, an eco-friendly, healthy alternative to chocolate truffles which can be consumed both cold and warm.

The awards were introduced by the competition's Chief Judge and Executive Director of Warburtons, Brett Warburton, and presented by Sue Bell, Head of Food Technology at Marks and Spencer, at Campden BRI's annual open day for the food and drink industry at its headquarters in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

After listening to the team pitches and tasting the products, "the dragons" – a panel of top food industry experts – carefully considered each entry for its industrial feasibility, taste, eco-innovation, originality, creativity and innovation, and market credibility.

The competition has attracted sponsorship from big industry names including M&S, Defra, BBSRC, Sainsbury's, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Tesco, Food Matters Live, Elsevier, and Warburtons, as well as the Farncombe Cotswold Conference Centre.

The Medina team is made up of students from University of Sheffield, Swansea University, University of Leeds, Liverpool John Moores University and the University of Reading, who are currently undertaking a placement year at PepsiCo.

They will go on to compete against the gold-winning national teams from across the whole of Europe for the chance to win up to €8,000 in the Ecotrophelia Europe competition, which will be held in October at the Universal Expo in Milan.

Teams of students who are interested in entering a team for Ecotrophelia UK 2016 can register their interest with Jane Emery at J.Emery@ifst.org.

www.ecotrophelia-uk.org #EcotropheliaUK

Notes to Editors:

Campden BRI (www.campdenbri.co.uk) provides technical, legislative and scientific support and research to the food and drinks industry worldwide – with a comprehensive “farm to fork” range of services covering agri-food production, analysis and testing, processing and manufacturing, safety, training and technical information services. Members and clients benefit from industry-leading facilities for analysis, product and process development, and sensory and consumer studies, which include a specialist brewing and wine division.

The Institute of Food Science & Technology (IFST) is the independent qualifying body for food professionals in Europe. Membership is drawn from all over the world from backgrounds including industry, universities, government, research and development and food law enforcement. IFST's activities focus on disseminating knowledge relating to food science and technology and promoting its application. Another important element of our work is to promote and uphold standards amongst food professionals.