

News Release

Re:locate Awards 2014/15 reward technological innovation in relocation

Friday 15 May 2015 – The winners of this year's *Re:locate* Awards, which celebrate the contribution of companies and individuals across the relocation sector, were announced and presented with their trophies at a champagne reception and gala dinner held yesterday at London's prestigious Institute of Directors. Among the categories was **Technological Innovation in Relocation**, which saw additional special awards made for **Technology – Relocation App** and **Technology – Global Benefits**.

The *Re:locate* Awards are regarded as the ultimate recognition of excellence in all aspects of relocation, both in the UK and internationally. More than 200 guests from across the relocation spectrum – including HR professionals and suppliers – networked the night away as they awaited the announcement of the winners. They were entertained and informed by this year's speaker, Laughology's Stephanie Davies, whose refreshingly interactive keynote was warmly received. Master of ceremonies Dave Keeling, also of Laughology, ensured that the presentation of the trophies went with a swing.

The technology winners

Fiona Murchie, Managing Editor of Re:locate said, "The technology category has been particularly praised by our judges this year for the quality of the entries, some of which have been truly exceptional. The interest in the technology category, reinforces our view that there is a huge demand for technological innovation across all the disciplines that contribute to the global mobility sphere, from tax, benefits and immigration to supporting expatriates

with easy to access local information to make decision making easier and ensure a smoother transition and move.”

The **Technological Innovation in Relocation** award recognises the effective and innovative use of technology by a relocation organisation or HR team to bring about business and employee benefits, or the provider of an innovative product or service using technology within the relocation context.

The judges, who were looking for evidence of real innovation in this fast-changing field, remarked on the high quality of all the entries, which were brought to life by powerful live presentations.

The entrants are using technology to advance the management of global mobility. The tools and systems presented will be extremely valuable to organisations in all aspects of their employees doing business and working across international borders – business travellers, expats and local employees.

Headquartered in San Francisco, winner Pearl Travel Tech delivers enterprise solutions to address immigration and tax compliance issues arising from international business travel and short-term assignments.

It took the award for its online pre-trip assessment tool Permiso, which can be used both by international travellers and by employers managing immigration and tax compliance.

“This is the only commercially available tool that integrates directly with travel booking and expense tracking systems, as well as with immigration and HRIS systems,” explains Pearl Travel Tech’s Julie Pearl.

“It is the first assessment tool that considers both immigration and tax compliance issues, and that assesses more than just a single trip in isolation, by analysing past travel history and future intended trips.”

Describing Permiso as “very effective and simple, with information and actions presented in an easy-to-understand format,” the *Re:locate* Awards judges highlighted its role in helping to keep travellers and their companies compliant, thereby greatly reducing the risk of fines, project delays, rejection at port of entry, and a host of other potential compliance problems.

In addition to the wealth of data provided, this App also tracks and accumulates time in country from both legal and tax standpoints.

Speaking at the Awards, Natalia Soledad de Foster, of Pearl Travel Tech said, "This is amazing – we're over the moon! I've just spoken to the team in San Francisco, and they're thrilled.

"This win really puts us on the map."

Because of the extremely high standard found throughout the category and the importance of showcasing the breadth of new technology in the global mobility sphere – from smaller independents with low budgets and multinationals with the resources to develop cutting-edge, more-elaborate, systems – the judges made two additional special awards.

Elite Executive Services, a small, specialist relocation company for moves into Australia and the Pacific region and winner of last year's Excellence in Employee & Family Support award, took the **Technology – Relocation App** trophy for its Applocation Australia.

The company has invested its own time and resources to develop this very simple App to provide multiple levels of information that are clearly presented and easy to follow.

Although this is an excellent tool for Elite's clients, it is provided as an App for the open market at no cost. Elite has even translated the content into Mandarin to support Chinese nationals moving into Australia.

Eleni Haritou, Elite Executive Services, “This award is for Kathy Nunn, who unfortunately couldn’t be here tonight. This app is her baby and she has absolutely worked so hard for this. So this award is just for her - she’s an amazing lady and this will mean a lot to her.”

For pushing the boundaries in expatriate management, the **Technology – Global Benefits** award went to professional services firm PwC for its Global Data Collect web application, designed to collate and report on all areas of remuneration and payment for expatriates.

The technology incorporates processes for user companies to audit their systems accurately, thereby ensuring that correct data is available to meet reporting requirements and financial liabilities.

PwC has tackled the very complex global areas of responsibility for HR, finance and audit for its expatriate workforce. It has invested a considerable amount of time and money with key clients to deliver comprehensive financial, auditing and reporting tools.

The judges were impressed by the very high standard of the management reporting applications.

Andy Williams Director, PwC said, "The Re:locate award reflects the hard work and effort the team puts into their work. We were very privileged to be nominated and very happy to be a winner."

Speaking from the United States, PwC Technology Director said, “We are thrilled to win the award from Re:locate. It means a lot to us.”

Demonstrating the breadth of entries in this category, HSBC Expat, International SOS, Peregrine Immigration Management, Pro-Link GLOBAL, and UrbanBound were also on the shortlist.

For a comprehensive list of *Re:locate* Awards winners, [click here](#).

The Summer 2015 issue of *Re:locate* magazine, to be published in June, will feature full details of all the winners, with case studies.

The *Re:locate* Awards 2014/15 were sponsored by BridgeStreet Global Hospitality, Cheval Residences, Graebel Relocation, Skyline Worldwide and Smith Stone Walters. The Association of Relocation Professionals (ARP), the European Relocation Association (EuRA), FOCUS, and the Relocation Users Group (RUG) provided professional endorsements.

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Notes for Editors

About the Re:locate Awards

Introduced in 2007 to reward good practice and celebrate the contribution of relocation to business success, the *Re:locate* Awards recognise teams and individuals, as well as organisations. They attract global attention and entries from the UK and overseas. Previous winners range from blue-chip companies to start-ups.

For further information, visit relocatemagazine.com/about-the-awards

About Re:locate Global

Re:locate Global recently celebrated ten years as the leading source of information, support and events for the global mobility sector. Its website, relocateglobal.com, is the gateway to a range of influential multichannel, multimedia products and services. Updated daily and reaching 145 countries, the website includes regional and subject-specific digital magazines. It is the online home of a fast-growing community of HR, global managers, relocation professionals and experts dedicated to global mobility.

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