



## THE DUTCH FAMILY BUSINESS VAN OORD WINS THE 6th LEONARDO DA VINCI PRIZE

### TRADITION, INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY IN THE IMAGE OF THE RENAISSANCE GENIUS



Paris, 9 June 2016 - Now in its sixth year, the Leonardo da Vinci Prize was this morning awarded to Pieter van Oord, member of the fourth generation within the family and CEO [Van Oord NV](#). The ceremony took place in Rotterdam (The Netherlands) in the presence of a large audience including representatives of embassies, university and business schools professors from around the world, the President of the Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers, family companies, business organizations.... Co-founded by the [Henokiens Association](#) and the [Château du Clos Lucé](#), the prize aims to promote family entrepreneurship as a model for dynamic and sustainable growth, in keeping with the values of its founders. It is a wonderful opportunity for the members of this prestigious organisation, from nine different countries, to share two hundred years of business practices and pass on their knowledge.

#### A prize-winner recognised for the values embodied by Leonardo da Vinci

Following previous winners from France, Italy, Germany and Japan, a Dutch family business, Van Oord NV Netherlands, is the latest winner of this prestigious award. Loyal to its traditions, family history and business, the **van Oord family** has handed down its expertise and values from generation to generation, just as Leonardo da Vinci passed these on to his students. These are the **five core values** recognised in the winner of the prize: history and

tradition, business and family, loyalty and commitment, memory and transmission, and finally, innovation and modernity.

***“The family firm as a business model has dominated our world for many centuries. Even today, there are more family firms than any other type of business organisation, and they generate a significant percentage of the economic output, value and employment of most of the nations on our planet”.*** Willem van Eeghen, President of the Henokiens Association.

The prize-giving ceremony at Rotterdam City Hall allowed members of the Henokiens Association to meet for their annual congress organised this year by the company member De Kuyper Royal Distillers (one of the two Dutch members of the Association with the company Van Eeghen) in which the participants, including a large group of Next Generation members, will have the opportunity to discover 3 Dutch family businesses from the Rotterdam region of worldwide reputation: Lely, Huisman and Damen Shipyards.

**Van Oord: the transmission of knowledge, constant innovation and perseverance, the key to international prominence and long-term success!**

The Netherlands are renowned for its **expertise with water**: hardly surprising when we learn that a quarter of the Dutch territory lies below sea level, putting the country at severe risk of flooding. **For more than a century and a half**, Van Oord has been the **leading specialist of dredging, marine engineering and offshore projects (oil, gas and wind)**. Amsterdam and Rotterdam harbours, and, as a consequence, the economy of the country as a whole, would not have developed had they not been dredged continuously with the latest cutting-edge techniques.

Van Oord’s impressive reputation is not surprising in a country where water control and coastal protection are often a matter of life and death. In particular, during the 1930s, the Dutch company played a major part in the building of **the large dike that links the two halves of the country**, turning the inland sea into a huge lake (known as the IJsselmeer). The work carried out on a mammoth scale in the south west of Zeeland province (known as the “Delta Project”) were partly made by Van Oord following the floods that submerged a fifth of the country after the high tides of 1953.

Their reputation reaches beyond the borders of the Netherlands: major works have also been carried out in Dubai (Palm World), Hong Kong (airport) and Singapore (port), as well as offshore (gas, oil in Brazil, Russia (Siberia) and offshore wind farms in the North Sea).

**Pieter van Oord**, the head of Van Oord NV, has followed the example of the previous three generations when steering his business through waters that are not always calm. Van Oord has now been recognised for its **vision of the future**, its **creativity** and its **capacity for innovation**, the criteria behind the prestigious Leonardo da Vinci Prize, in the image of the values of the 16th-century designer, artist and engineering genius. Pieter van Oord was awarded the Leonardo da Vinci Prize by the Mayor of Rotterdam, Ahmed Aboutaleb.



Pieter van Oord (photo: Van Oord NV)

### Van Oord NV in figures

<b>Founded:</b>	<b>1868</b>
<b>Founder:</b>	<b>Govert van Oord</b>
<b>Headquarters:</b>	<b>Rotterdam, the Netherlands</b>
<b>Turnover:</b>	<b>€2.579 billion in 2015</b>
<b>Profit:</b>	<b>€169 million in 2015</b>
<b>No. of employees:</b>	<b>5,000 (2015)</b>

### About the Leonardo da Vinci Prize – the Henokiens Association – Le Clos Lucé

Founded in 2011 by the Henokiens Association and the Château du Clos Lucé, **the Leonardo da Vinci Prize**, now in its sixth year, recognises family businesses that continue to reinvent themselves and pass on their expertise, an “intangible and living heritage” and an essential guarantee of sustainability in keeping with the works and genius of the artist and inventor who gives his name to the prize. In previous years the award has honoured prestigious family businesses from four countries: Salvatore Ferragamo and Bracco (Italy), Daher (France), Otto Bock Healthcare (Germany) and Kai Corporation (Japan). The Leonardo da Vinci Trophy was designed by Mellerio dits Meller, a member of the Henokiens Association.

<http://www.vinci-closluce.com/fr/prix-leonard>

<http://www.henokiens.com/content.php?id=3&lg=en>

The Henokiens Association – Founded in 1981, the Henokiens Association brings together 47 family businesses from nine different countries that have been in existence for more than two hundred years, and whose owners or majority shareholders are descended from the business’s founders. The objectives of the association are the development of its members around the world through a shared philosophy: the value of the concept of the family business as an alternative to multinationals.

<http://www.henokiens.com>

The Clos Lucé – Located in Amboise, the Clos Lucé was the home of Leonardo da Vinci from 1516 to 1519. He lived there at the invitation of King Francis I of France, for whom he worked on a number of projects. Leonardo died at the Clos Lucé on May 2, 1519. Owners of the Clos Lucé since 1854, the Saint Bris family opened the château and the Parc Leonardo da Vinci to the public in 1954 to promote the artist's legacy, memory and work. In 2016, the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the painter, engineer and architect at the Clos Lucé will be celebrated with a programme of workshops, exhibitions and events.

<http://www.vinci-closluce.com>

**Please contact us if you want to receive photos of the event and the Press Kit**

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