



## THE AUSTRIAN FAMILY COMPANY SWAROVSKI RECEIVES THE 7<sup>TH</sup> LEONARDO DA VINCI PRIZE FROM THE ANCIENT PRESIDENT HEINZ FISCHER



Paris, 22 June 2017 – The seventh Leonardo da Vinci Prize was accepted this morning in Vienna, Austria, by Marisa Schiestl-Swarovski, Chairwoman of the Shareholders’ Meeting and 5th generation member of the family of the same name 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

This year, it was the turn of an Austrian family company to receive the prestigious Prize, following in the footsteps of past winners from France, Italy, Germany, Japan and the Netherlands. Faithful to their traditions and family history, the **Swarovski family** have passed down their expertise and their values from one generation to the next, just as Leonardo da Vinci transmitted his own 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
- 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 award ceremony for the Prize, held in Vienna’s Liechtenstein Palace, provided an opportunity for Henokiens to come together for their annual Congress, organised this year by member company A.E. Köchert Joailliers and during which the participants will be able to explore the Austrian capital city’s mix of tradition and modernity.

### **The Swarovski company, a jewel in the Swarovski family’s crown for 122 years**

The company, which was created by Daniel Swarovski in 1895, built its reputation on core values: respect for the environment and for people, a commitment to society, great adaptability to changing markets, the creation of responsible products, and continuous concern for preparing the next generations. These underlying principles made a name for the family, one that is now known as a major global brand and a benchmark for craftsmanship and creative expression.

***“Treating the past with respect, but above all using it to build the future” (Daniel Swarovski)***

This fundamental concept demands a high level of employee alignment with the brand and the family’s identity. It is based on a particularly dynamic family management programme including, for example, a family development board, because it is important to the family to maintain an active role within the company, rather than contenting themselves with the role of owners.

Daniel Swarovski’s descendants – now the company’s leaders – are inspired by his original vision and his pioneering spirit in their ongoing efforts to foster the right conditions for growth that is respectful of both people and the environment.

Today, Swarovski designs, manufactures and markets long-range optical instruments, grinding tools, and jewellery and crystal of the highest quality.

### **Key Swarovski facts and figures**

<b>Founded:</b>	<b>1895</b>
<b>Founder:</b>	<b>Daniel Swarovski</b>
<b>Head office:</b>	<b>Wattens, Austria</b>
<b>Turnover:</b>	<b>€3.37 billion in 2015</b>
<b>Number of employees:</b>	<b>32,000</b>
<b>Exports:</b>	<b>Active in 170 countries</b>

## About the Leonardo da Vinci Prize – the Henokiens – the 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>

### ***Photos and press Kit on demand***

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