

News Release

**Re:locate Awards 2014/15 celebrate contribution of specialists and suppliers**

**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 them were representatives of supplier organisations large and small.

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.

Speaking at the gala dinner, Fiona Murchie, managing editor of *Re:locate*, the leading source of information, support and events for the fast-growing global mobility community, said, "We are celebrating the eighth year of the *Re:locate* awards, with **twelve categories** and some exceptionally high calibre entries this year. With a rigorous independent, judging panel of experts and a prestigious global reputation these really are the awards to win!."

As one of the judges Gordon Kerr, Director of Employee Mobility Unit for Morton Fraser so aptly put it, "The Relocate Awards have provided all sectors of the relocation industry with a unique opportunity to demonstrate all that is

best about our industry: an opportunity that has been grasped by an astonishing variety of leading national and international firms. As a judge, it has been a genuine privilege to discover the extent of innovation and creativity delivered by the entrants. Ultimately this benefits our industry and our clients."

## **The winners**

Between them, this year's 12 *Re:locate* Awards recognised individuals, teams, policy and innovation, with a choice of categories for HR and service providers. Entries were subjected to rigorous scrutiny by a team of independent judges.

The winners, which included companies and individuals from the UK and overseas, reflected the many different types of organisation involved in relocation, all of which contribute a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Familiar names like InterContinental Hotels Group, PwC and Crown World Mobility were side by side with previously less-familiar ones.

Because of the number and quality of entries to the **Relocation Service Provider or Team of the Year** category, two awards were made. The judges congratulated Russian destination services provider Intermark Relocation, which was named **Relocation Service Provider of the Year**, on an excellent service-delivery model with 24-hour support.

Crown World Mobility's Unilever Account Team was named **Global Relocation Team of the Year**. The judges praised the team for the "huge efforts" it had made to improve and develop cultural and location knowledge to support Unilever in all regions, an impressive increase in assignee satisfaction scores, and the new channels of communication that had been opened to enable team members to share ideas for service improvements, which had resulted in 35 new initiatives being suggested – initiatives which, said the judges, would benefit both Crown and Unilever.

Immigration consultancy Pro-Link GLOBAL took the trophy for **Best HR & Supplier Strategy or Team**, which honours HR teams working with a supplier to deliver a relocation strategy that enhances their organisation's business objectives and/or the quality of the relocation support provided to individual employees. Describing Pro-Link's entry as "exceptionally well-produced", the judges said that it had demonstrated impressive service, with excellent outcomes for clients and employees on the move.

US-based software company Pearl Travel Tech triumphed in the **Technological Innovation in Relocation** category with its online pre-trip assessment tool Permiso, which can be used both by international travellers and by employers managing immigration and tax compliance.

Because of the extremely high standard found throughout this category, the judges made two additional awards. Elite Executive Services, a specialist relocation company for moves into Australia and the Pacific region, took the Technology – Relocation App trophy for Application Australia, which provides comprehensive information on relocating to Australia.

The Technology – Global Benefits award went to professional services firm PwC for its Global Data Collect web application, which collates and reports on all areas of remuneration and payment for expatriates.

The **Excellence in Employee & Family Support** award was won by UK inbound immigration consultancy Smith Stone Walters. Said one judge, "The case study supplied showed evidence of going the extra mile and the outcomes of excellent customer service and sound, practical advice. The focus is on the employee and family, but the implications for the client organisation are also clearly addressed."

Entries to this year's **Best Property Provider or Solution** category came from a variety of organisations. The trophy went to serviced apartment company SACO for an impressive fourth time. One notable secret of SACO's success, the judges said, was record satisfaction levels, with more than 94

per cent of guests rating their stay at four or five out of five. In January 2015, a client survey reported that a massive 100 per cent would be likely or highly likely to recommend SACO to industry peers or colleagues.

The **Financial Support & Innovation** award recognises providers of specialist financial support to corporate clients and/or relocating employees and their families. Winner Global Tax Network was described by the judges as “a very strong player in global tax services for companies and their expats” which had “built upon Big 4 expertise but devised a service model that is more customer-focused, proving encouragement for clients to explore solutions without extra fees”.

**Immigration Team of the Year**, which recognises providers of specialist immigration support to companies that are relocating employees and their families, attracted a large number of entries, with a high overall standard. The judges congratulated winner Dearson Winyard International, a London-based immigration consultancy, on “a clear, strong entry, based on 20 years of service, multiple accreditations, client engagement, and a core business philosophy of ‘utmost good faith’,” with particularly good client feedback and powerful evidence of innovation.

The **Global Health & Wellness** award reflects employers’ growing awareness of the contribution made by health and wellness initiatives to the welfare of staff and the success of the business. Entry was open to the wide range of companies that provide health and wellness solutions, as well as employers’ in-house wellness schemes.

Medical, security and travel assistance services provider Healix International took the award for the second time. Its entry showcased its Global Travel Risk Management service – described by the judges as “a cost-effective and integrated service operating in challenging locations” – which is designed to help employers to fulfil their duty of care towards staff travelling and working abroad.

French company Management Mobility Consulting was named **Best International Destination Services Provider**, the judges applauding it as “a company that clearly provides a high-quality, supportive service and gives back via charitable works”. It is no stranger to success in this category, having won it in 2012/13.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of **Relocation Personality of the Year**. Heather Mulkey, of the International School of London, Surrey, was a popular winner, known and respected throughout the relocation sector.

For a comprehensive list of 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.

- ENDS -

## **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](http://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](http://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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