



## MEDIA RELEASE

6<sup>th</sup> December 2018

### DEK Technologies wins 2018 NBAA Business of the Year.

200 key businesses, tertiary education institutions, local governments and community organisations from Melbourne's North gathered in anticipation on the morning of 6 December 2018 for the announcement of the winners of the Northern Business Achievement Awards for 2018.

The 2018 Business of the Year Award sponsored by the **Victorian Government** was awarded to **DEK Technologies**, for business excellence across all areas of operations. **(nominated by Hume City Council)**.

Other winners were:

- The **Best Start-Up or Microbusiness Award**, sponsored by the *Bank of Melbourne*, was awarded to **B2C Technologies**. B2C Technologies is a social enterprise addressing the digital divide between various socio-economic groups. By working with charities and community groups to provide affordable computers to low income individuals, B2C Technologies has helped over 8,000 families learn digitally necessary life skills since 2009. **(nominated by City of Whittlesea)**
- The **Customer Service Award** sponsored by *MatchWorks*, which recognised excellence in customer service, was awarded to **Balashi Flowers**. Balashi Flowers is a family agribusiness producing fresh cut flowers for the wholesale market and direct to the public. **(nominated by Nillumbik Shire Council)**
- **DEK Technologies** were awarded the **Export Award** sponsored by *NORTH Link*. DEK Technologies employs over 400 staff at four global R&D centres, providing software, hardware and electronic systems engineering services across communications, automation and defence industries. As an exporter, they provide a sustained commercial edge to world-leading technology companies. **(nominated by Hume City Council)**
- The **Human Resources Award** sponsored by *Macpherson Kelley*, recognises the investment in employee engagement and development. This award was presented to **Pearsons Lawyers**. Pearsons is a speciality family law practice focused on divorce, separation, children's issues, financial settlement, spousal support, same sex relationships, de facto relationships and child support. Established in 1922, Pearsons are active in the community as supporters of social enterprise projects and charitable enterprises including Beyond Blue and Fitted for Work. **(nominated by Moreland City Council)**
- The **Industry Education Engagement Award** sponsored by *Acer* was awarded to **Nobody Denim**. Established in 1999, Nobody Denim is celebrated for making women feel more confident in their world and in themselves. Designed from the details up, Nobody Denim believes style as much about the attitude as it is about the purpose – constantly refining and defining. **(nominated by the City of Darebin)**
- The **Innovation and Enterprise Award** sponsored by *AusIndustry*, recognised significant innovation and enterprise initiatives. This award was presented to **Concrete Collective** for outstanding innovation and enterprise. Concrete Collective Melbourne is an architectural company that specialises in creating high-performance, light-weight concrete products to suit almost any architectural application. From benchtops and vanities to baths and wall panels, their custom engineered product allows concrete to take new and innovative forms. **(nominated by Banyule City Council)**

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- The **Outstanding Initiative in Manufacturing Award** sponsored by *Energy Australia* was awarded to **Paleo Pure & Bod Kombucha**. Paleo Pure was founded in 2014 by Emma Risvanis and Nicole Di Pietro-Case. The duo share a passion for organic, gut friendly food, and have been supplying over 500 independent supermarkets with their hand-made granola range for four years. From their Fairfield factory, they started brewing kombucha two years ago and now employ over 15 staff. **(nominated by Darebin City Council)**
- The **Philanthropy and Community Service Award** sponsored by *Inner North Community Foundation* was awarded to **Boots for All**. Boots for All dissolves barriers to sport and social inclusion by providing essential new and near-new sporting goods to disadvantaged teams across Australia. They also provide training and employment pathways for young people with barriers to employment via the Sport for All social enterprise sports store. **(nominated by Banyule City Council)**
- The **Sustainability and Environment Award** sponsored by *Apprenticeships Matter*, which recognised sustainability and environmental best practice was awarded to **The Project Office & Enesys**. The Project Office is an innovative multi-disciplined engineering consultancy that offers concept to completion engineering and project management services. In conjunction with its R&D company Enesys, it specialises in environmental solutions that link resources and recycle waste streams. **(nominated by Nillumbik Shire Council)**
- The **Technology Award** sponsored by *Testra*, was awarded to **Love It Landscaping**. Love It Landscaping provides professional landscaping services to domestic and commercial clients. They offer a range of services, from small residential works to large commercial designs, with a focus on quality, workmanship and attention to detail. **(nominated by Hume City Council)**
- The **Workplace Diversity Award** sponsored by *Melbourne Polytechnic*, recognises companies that value a culturally diverse workplace and was awarded to **Melbourne Market** for reflecting and supporting workplace diversity. The Melbourne Market is administered by the Melbourne Market Authority. The vision is for the Melbourne Market to be recognised Australia-wide as an industry leader committed to innovation, quality and operational excellence. Using the wholesale market as the anchor, the market precinct will become a fresh produce processing, distribution and logistics centre of international significance. **(nominated by City of Whittlesea)**.

The Awards align with NORTH Link's aims of economic development and marketing and promotion of Melbourne's North, by recognising local business achievement, encouraging innovation and providing valuable networks and opportunities for enterprise growth and development.

To encourage continuing accomplishment amongst businesses, the Northern Business Achievement Awards (NBAA) have been created as a series of business breakfast events designed to:

- acknowledge and celebrate the successes of Small-Medium enterprises (SME's)
- offer opportunities for valuable networking
- learn and exchange ideas

Chris James, Executive Director NORTH Link said "The 2018 NBAA Grand Finale again showcased the best that Melbourne's North industry has to offer and highlighted the growth and innovation occurring in the North. I congratulate the winners and all nominees on their achievements".

The NBAA was created by NORTH Link with initial funding from the Victorian Government and the support of the Cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea and the Shire of Nillumbik.

For more information or Sponsorship opportunities please contact Chris James, Executive Director, NORTH Link on (03) 9479 3336.

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Conference Website - <http://www.nbaa.com.au>