



AWARDING GREEN EXCELLENCE

The Gaia Awards are meant to promote environmentally sound products and services

By Stuart Matthews

The preservation of the environment has surged up the agenda for many industries, including construction, which has traditionally been seen as one of the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions.

The Big 5 has supported the greening of the industry through its Gaia Awards programme, which made a successful debut in 2008. Now in its second year, the awards showcase products and services featured at this year's Big 5 exhibition, which help mitigate the impact of construction on the environment.

The awards were designed with two simple objectives in mind. The first was to raise the profile of green or environmentally sound

building products and services in the GCC, reflecting the desire to 'build green'.

The second objective was to enable visitors to The Big 5 exhibition to easily locate and evaluate these products on the exhibition floor. This is a key part of the event's role as a buying show, where exhibitors can get an instant response from potential customers.

The awards were decided by an expert panel of judges, assembled with the support of ecospecifier International.

It featured senior experts from local developers, contractors and the government, each of whom applied strict selection criteria to decide on the winners.

Awards were made in gold, silver and bronze categories, with all finalists certified. **5**

JUDGES



DAVID BAGGS

CEO, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER OF ECOSPECIFIER GLOBAL

David is a multi-award winning chartered architect, sustainability and energy-efficiency consultant with over 30 years experience in green buildings and products. He is a Leed and Green Star accredited professional and Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) Independent Professional. He has recently assisted Abu Dhabi's Urban Planning Council in the development of the 'Estidama Pearl New Building Rating Method and Design Guide', as well as training more than 300 green building professionals in the emirate in the integrative design processes now required, in Abu Dhabi, for development approval.



ARMEN VARTANIAN

DIRECTOR, ECOVENTURES

Armen Vartanian, director at EcoVentures, has been involved in venture capital and entrepreneurship his entire career. Prior to joining EcoVentures, Armen was a vice president with Manara Capital, a Beirut-based investment company investing in public and private companies. Besides working at a venture capital firm investing in environmental technologies, Armen has founded and worked for several technology companies, including Office.com, Service-Planet.com, and SideTalk. He has a BS in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA from the Johnson School at Cornell University.



DR ASHRAF HEGAZY

CHAIRMAN, SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ALDAR

Dr Ashraf Faisal Hegazy is a certified international design and art consultant and received his doctorate in engineering projects management and Master of Architecture from Elmhurst University/Illinois, US. Ashraf has practiced for over 20 years in the Gulf and North Africa, where he has involved extensively in numerous leading-edge civic projects. He is the author of numerous published works, including technical papers and articles related to sustainable architecture and bio-mimicry architecture, plus he is an advisory professor for degree programmes in sustainability.



DR BASSAM ABU-HIJLEH

ATKINS CHAIR AND HEAD OF THE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME THE BRITISH UNIVERSITY IN DUBAI

Professor Bassam Abu-Hijleh is currently assigned as the Atkins chair and head of the Sustainable Design of the Built Environment programme at The British University in Dubai. He holds a PhD in mechanical engineering from Ohio State University. His 20 years of post-PhD career include industrial, educational and research experiences. Some of his main research interests include computational fluid dynamics, simulation and optimisation of heat transfer, experimental and simulation study of solar energy and energy sources.



HOLLEY CHANT

CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR, KEO INTERNATIONAL

Holley Chant, Leed AP, is KEO International's corporate director of sustainability and has more than ten years experience working on the built environment. She is a frequent international speaker on sustainability in the built environment as well as corporate social responsibility. Currently she is the supervising consultant to Taahud Construction for Sustainability Management at Masdar City for Project 1. Prior to joining KEO, Holley worked for the Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council as Estidama Planning. She is strongly committed to excellence in sustainable design.



SAMUEL KEEHN

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY MANAGER, ENERGY MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INTERNATIONAL

Samuel Keehn was raised in California, and graduated from the American University in Washington DC, with a masters in Global Environmental Policy. His master's thesis research addressed the existing and emerging green building and Leed certification market in Washington, DC. In his time with EMS he has grown the green building department, which now has projects in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar and Bahrain. He is also working with clients and project teams on a number of Leed buildings and other sustainable master development and sustainable projects.



FRESH WAY TO CLEAN WATER

Sustainable water treatment solution bags
Gaia Gold Award for 2009

THE WINNERS

The 2009 Gold Award went to Australian Innovative Systems (AIS) who beat off stiff competition with its Ecoline technology. Ecoline is an on-site, in-line chlorine generation plant capable of producing chlorine in fresh water from the small amount of natural salts and minerals already present, providing sterilised, healthy natural water, free of complications and risks of manually adding chemicals.

"Winning the Gaia Award has been the most rewarding accolade in our company's achievements and great recognition for the tremendous work we have done as a team," said Elena Gosse, executive director at AIS. "It provides an excellent platform for AIS to be profiled as one of the world's highly innovative

companies and will further the credibility of our brand in the Gulf. The team at AIS feels that winning the Gaia Award has bestowed a responsibility on them to continue their hard work, delivering further innovation and quality that they are renowned for."

Presenting the awards to the winners at the *Construction Week Awards* ceremony, dmg world media's vice-president of construction, Simon Mellor said: "The entries this year were all outstanding and competition was fierce. With an increasing awareness of the importance of environmental responsibility in the construction sector, the technologies being submitted were highly advanced and it has been fantastic to see the initiatives being applied by so many

THE PRODUCT

Ecoline is a fresh water chlorine generator, which eliminates the need to use salt as well as to accumulate, store and mechanically dose hypochlorite.

Ecoline can be used for applications such as drinking water treatment, food processing plants, water features, cooling towers, fresh water swimming pools, and irrigation water.

The chlorine is activated from the small amount of natural mineral salts present in fresh water.

This is in-line chlorination technology, so fresh water passes through the cell and the required amount of chlorine is produced from the water itself and diluted

immediately into passing water.

Only six watts of energy is required for every gram of pure chlorine, compared to the 13 watts per gram of chlorine used by other chlorination technologies. The amount of chlorine is controlled electronically and there are no mechanical dosing pumps and are no tanks required to store chlorine.

Fresh water chlorine generators destroy chloramines, so it isn't necessary to install other UV treatment systems or 'super chlorinate'. However, fresh water chlorine generators will also work with a UV system if it is already installed. Cell module assembly with multiple electrolytic cells on a single skid can be built as large as 152kg/hour of chlorine.



DID YOU KNOW?

In total there were one gold, six silver, 10 bronze and 15 green awards made, covering 32 products and services, all of which are on show at The Big 5.

WINNER

Susan Rae, on behalf of Australian Innovative Systems, collects the Gold Gaia Award from The Big 5's Simon Mellor at the *Construction Week Awards*

142

The number of entries the Gaia Awards attracted this year, with all participants being certified.

companies around the world. The Big 5 will provide a showcase to help raise the profile of the winning green solutions, and we know from previous Gaia Winners that the awards can make a real difference to their business."

Read about the silver award winners tomorrow.

DID YOU KNOW?

As part of its steps towards carbon neutrality The Big 5 will be offsetting its carbon emissions by contributing to a Waste Heat Recovery Based Captive Power project in Chhattisgarh, India.

6wts

energy needed for 1g pure chlorine



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