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Press Release

Winning University from Konica Minolta's International University Contest comes from South Africa

Langenhagen, Germany, 11 May 2017

On 29th April, the International University Contest (IUC), organised and sponsored by Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe (Konica Minolta), took place in Berlin, Germany. In organising the contest, Konica Minolta aimed to support tertiary education institutions to build the digital campus. For the past year, students from international universities had the unique opportunity to work with Konica Minolta to analyse a current document or information workflow within their university and propose an innovative improvement. The winner of the year-long contest was the Vaal Technical University of South Africa. As reason for its decision, the jury gave the environmental benefits including less waste and reduced paper consumption. The winner team consisting of five students will now spend four days in Vienna visiting the Pioneers Festival 2017 this June.

Busisiwe Rekhostso, a student from the winning team from the Vaal Technical University of South Africa, emphasised "The contest was a wonderful experience and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet new and interesting people. Over the course of the competition, I spent many hours with many different people, listening to them and talking with them about their goals and plans for the future. It was incredibly exciting to be able to compete and interact with them. The experience has been tremendously rewarding and beyond breathtaking." And Prince Madumise, another student from the winning team, adds: "Thank you for the opportunity you gave us. We had an amazing time in Berlin. We still, after the trip, cannot believe we were in a distant foreign land." In June, the 5 winners will attend the Pioneers Festival in Vienna, Austria, where smart start-ups present innovations of the future (1-2 June 2017).

Top-Class Jury and Speakers

The winning team was chosen by a top-class jury consisting of renowned members such as Alastair Creelman, a leading e-learning specialist from Linnaeus University,



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based in Sweden, and Steven Swift, founder of the IMPSGA alliance and industry analyst, who stated: “The event was a great opportunity for students to demonstrate innovation, and for the winners to meet with some of the world’s top technology investors and executives at the 2017 Pioneers Festival.”

Speakers completing the event included Oliver Csendes, CEO of Pioneers, who provided an overview of this year’s Pioneers Festival, and Milan Lakhani, client principal and innovation strategist within Konica Minolta’s European Business Innovation Centre (BIC), who gave an insight into Konica Minolta’s approach to innovation.

IUC 2018

Following on from the success of this year’s contest, Konica Minolta has decided to run the competition again in 2018.



The winning team of students from Vaal Technical University of South Africa

For further information about the Konica Minolta International University Contest, please visit: <http://iuc.konicaminolta.eu/>

About Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe GmbH, based in Langenhagen, Germany, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Konica Minolta Inc., Tokyo, Japan, forming part of its Business Technologies business area. As a leading global services provider in the field of IT- and document processes as well as digital production printing solutions, the company excels in services-led business consulting, implementation and



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management and provides a range of world-leading printing systems and solutions. In this context, Konica Minolta's Optimized Print Services concept (OPS) combines consultancy, hardware, software implementation, and operation in order to enhance business process efficiency and cost-effectiveness. To support customers optimally with powerful and sustainable solutions, technology leader Konica Minolta continuously invests in research and development work and regularly sets new standards.

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Europe is represented by subsidiaries and distributors in more than 80 countries in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. With over 35,000 employees around the world (as of March 2016), Konica Minolta's Business Technologies business area earned net sales of over EUR 6.2 billion in the 2015/16 financial year.

For further information about the company, please visit: www.konicaminolta.eu and <http://newsroom.konicaminolta.eu/>.

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