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Winners of the McRock IIoT Awards 2018 Announced

Toronto, Ontario--(June 21, 2018) - [McRock Capital](#), a leading venture capital fund manager focused exclusively on the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), announced the 2018 winners of the annual McRock IIoT Awards during its 7th Annual McRock IIoT Symposium in Montreal today. The 2018 McRock IIoT Awards recognizes organizations and individuals in three categories: IIoT Corporate Leader of the Year, IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year, and IIoT Diversity Leader of the Year. The 2018 winners were selected by an industry-led judging committee.

McRock IIoT Corporate Lead of the Year

This award is presented to a corporation driving IIoT adoption by demonstrating a unique and successful IIoT solution internally or with a customer. Emerson is awarded the McRock IIoT Corporate Leader of the Year 2018.



Emerson's Peter Zornio, Chief Technology Officer of Emerson Automation Solutions

Emerson has a long history of advancing what would become IIoT Technology. Back in 1997, Emerson launched the original PlantWeb™ field-based architecture, turning field devices into servers and creating a solution for control and information access across an entire facility. Over ten years ago, Emerson pioneered standards based wireless devices and sensors in industrial facilities, and have built a broad portfolio and installed base. With the launch of the Plantweb digital ecosystem in 2016 under the leadership of Mike Train, Executive President Emerson Automation Solutions and Peter Zornio, Chief Technology Officer, Emerson Automation Solutions, the company further expanded its platform from sensing, devices, and instrumentation to software, analytics, and services, bringing a comprehensive IIoT portfolio to market for its customers. Emerson believes the next era of value creation will be enabled by digital transformation and is continuing its IIoT leadership by developing and implementing technologies and services that connect an organization’s sensors, assets, entire plants, people, and processes. Emerson’s IIoT capabilities help make industrial operations more productive and safer for thousands of plants across the globe.

“The wide-ranging potential of Industrial IoT technologies is both exciting and daunting. It’s no surprise that many businesses are struggling to realize the results being promised by IIoT providers,” said Peter Zornio, Chief Technology Officer of Emerson Automation Solutions. “Our focus is helping customers start small and pragmatically scale up towards achieving Top Quartile performance, leveraging Industrial IoT technologies, data analysis and insights and expert consulting.”

McRock IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year

This award is presented to an individual that has experienced success in the IIoT as a founder and/or business leader in setting strategy, a developer creating a product, and everything in between. Worximity president & founder, Yannick Desmarais, is awarded the McRock IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year 2018.



Worximity’s Emilie Lachance (for Yannick Desmarais)

Yannick Desmarais is the president & founder of Worximity. Founded in 2011, Worximity has helped improve the performance of more than 1,000 production lines across North America, in Europe and Australia with its connectivity solutions, which enable factory managers and workers to monitor their production in real time. The Worximity story begins with one entrepreneur's quest to find the perfect tool for real-time production monitoring in the manufacturing industry. Yannick, at the time maintenance and continuous improvement manager in an agro-food factory, travelled the globe in search of a technology with the potential of displaying KPIs in real time. Yannick never found the technology he was looking for but he did find a solution. He decided to create his own monitoring technology in 2011. The following two years were quite productive, culminating with the launching of the first version of TileBoard, the real-time dashboard. Since then, Worximity received financial support from a VC, located to new offices in the heart of Old Montreal and its qualified team of experts is growing exponentially. With the rise of IIoT and Industry 4.0, based on connected objects, Worximity, with thousands of connected pieces of equipment thanks to its TileConnect sensors, is playing a key role in this next industrial revolution, making businesses more connected, more efficient, and better performing.

"I am extremely honoured to be receiving the McRock IIoT Entrepreneur of the Year Award. It is quite an honour for me to be distinguished among the so many talented people," said Yannick Desmarais, president & founder of Worximity. "It is clearly a sign that Montreal is thriving and has been an incredible journey so far and I'm really excited about the future of the company and IIoT. We live in extraordinary times where new technologies such as data science, machine learning and artificial intelligence are allowing us to push back boundaries and cross new frontiers."

McRock IIoT Diversity Leader of the Year

The award is presented to an organization in the IIoT space that has demonstrated a consistent pattern of breaking barriers to promote workplace diversity and inclusion initiatives. Due to impressive nominations, this year two organizations were named McRock IIoT Diversity Leader of the Year 2018, Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and HarbourVest.



BDC's Jérôme Nycz, Executive Vice-President, BDC Capital and HarbourVest's Senia Rapisarda, Managing Director

BDC

At BDC diversity is a part of its leaders' competencies and the company's core values. The bank has a dedicated diversity and inclusion team, which supports the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and over 60 employees who make up the various diversity support groups. This team looks at ways they can promote understanding and acceptance through education and events and their scope goes beyond diversity, to also focus on inclusion, in the workplace, workforce and marketplace for BDC's 8 communities of focus: Women, Visible Minorities, Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous persons, Newcomers, LGBTQ2+, Military and intergeneration. BDC has been one of Canada's best diversity employers for several consecutive years. The award acknowledges the company's significant efforts in building a diverse workforce and a culture that supports inclusion.

As part of its continued efforts to support women entrepreneurs, BDC recently announced the BDC Capital Women in Technology (WIT) Venture Fund to foster the creation of the next generation of Canadian women technology entrepreneurs. With \$200 million to be invested, it is currently the world's largest venture capital fund dedicated solely to investing in women-led technology companies across sectors. BDC also aims to better serve female entrepreneurs through the Women Entrepreneur National Initiative, allocating funds for sponsorship of programs and initiatives for female entrepreneurs. Last year, BDC set a new lending target of \$1.4 billion for women entrepreneurs for the next three years, doubling its previous commitment. The bank has participated in over 200 events such as financial literacy workshops, coaching and mentoring, networking and business accelerator programs.

"Fostering diversity is not only the right thing to do morally, it is also the best thing to do from a business perspective," said Jérôme Nycz, Executive Vice-President, BDC Capital. "Diverse companies are more profitable, more resilient, more innovative. At BDC, we believe we have the responsibility to show leadership in promoting diversity and inclusion. We are honoured to be recognized for our efforts, and wish to share this award with our partners in the financial and investment sectors who demonstrate the same level of commitment as well as all the entrepreneurs across Canada who make a difference every day."

HarbourVest

HarbourVest has a philosophy of responsible investing, which dates back to its founding in 1982, and seeks to identify the most promising investment prospects by cultivating an approach that emphasizes team contributions over individual successes. To further support responsible investing, the firm became a signatory of the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investing.

HarbourVest has an Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) program and Global ESG Committee consisting of 8 members of which there is a 50/50 split of men and women. The Committee is led by London-based Managing Director, Kathleen Bacon. Kathleen is also a founding member of Level 20 - a European group of female private equity professionals dedicated to understanding the key challenges of gender representation in private equity. Since its inception in 2015, Level 20 has grown rapidly to encompass more than 1,000 members across the UK, Europe, and beyond, and has received financial backing from 40 GP sponsors.

At HarbourVest, 25% of the senior positions are held by women, and 28% of their managing directors are female. To put these figures in context, senior women in private equity hold, on average, only 12% of all senior positions globally putting HarbourVest at over double the industry average.

In 2016, the company acquired HarbourVest Horizon, a private equity fund investor with a decades-long history of providing access to capital to diverse-led private funds and general partners focused on people and places that have historically lacked access to capital. It has pushed for increased gender parity and diversity through investments in impact-focused private equity funds. HarbourVest Horizon focuses on managers that invest in companies that are: led by women or ethnic minorities; located in low- to moderate-income neighbourhoods, the inner city, or in rural areas; or focused on delivering products or services to an ethnically diverse customer base. As of July 31, 2017, HarbourVest Horizon closed on \$1.2 billion in commitments to 62 private equity funds. Of that amount, \$1.1 billion was committed to funds with at least one ethnic minority or female partner.

“HarbourVest is thrilled to receive this award for diversity,” said Senia Rapisarda, Managing Director, HarbourVest. “We are committed to making an impact on our clients’ portfolios and to making a difference in society. For us, this means being a responsible corporate citizen in our business operations and in the communities in which our more than 400 employees live and work.”

About McRock Capital – McRock is the first dedicated Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) venture capital fund focused on the intersection of machine data and analytics software in large industrial markets and Smart Cities. The McRock team has a unique background of building high-growth venture-backed IIoT companies while also having worked in the power, water, oil and gas industries. McRock is backed by several leading institutional investors as well as Cisco Systems, Électricité de France (EDF), and Caterpillar.

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