

November 2015

# TWO B MONTHLY

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## The Global Biocontrol & Biostimulants E-Newsletter

A Dunham Trimmer and New Ag International Publication  
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### Highlights from ABIM 2015

#### Inaugural Bernard Blum Award for Novel Biocontrol Solutions Goes to US Company Vestaron Corporation

**T**he US company Vestaron Corporation is the winner of the inaugural Bernard Blum Award. The award ceremony took place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October in Basel, Switzerland, at the opening ceremony of the annual ABIM Congress, the largest Biopesticide industry gathering in the world. The Bernard Blum award was created by IBMA in memory of the association founding father Bernard Blum whom the award and trophy is dedicated to in this 20th anniversary of the formation of IBMA as an association. Dr Robert Kennedy, Chief Scientific Officer at Vestaron Corp, received the award from the hands of Dr Willem Ravensberg, President of IBMA, accompanied by Jean Pierre Leymonie, MD of **New Ag International** & Editor of **2BMonthly**, official partners of the Award. **Vestaron Corporation** is a leader in the development and marketing of safe and effective bioinsecticides derived from naturally occurring peptides. The company got the award for its Spear product line (GS-omega/kappa-Hxtx-Hv1a) a series of bioinsecticides derived from spider peptides with activity on lepidoptera and coleoptera. The Spear product line also uses the addition of Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) to synergize performance as a part of an integrated pest management system. "On behalf of the entire Vestaron team we gratefully accept this honor. Bob's leadership of the R&D team is evident and the execution of the science behind this groundbreaking new product has been exceptional. This award further verifies the importance of Vestaron's discovery platform for new bioinsecticides with the

efficacy and safety that these products bring to the industry," said Dr. John Sorenson, Director and CEO of Vestaron. There were thirteen entries for this inaugural award. The judges panel, headed by Dr Owen Jones, a former President of IBMA responsible for Global Strategy at Suterra LLC until 2012, now an independent Consultant at Lisk & Jones in the UK, were unanimous in support of the 3 shortlisted entries and also on the ranking of the top three: In addition to the winner Vestaron, the company DCM & De Ceuster (Belgium) was ranked number 2 and Belgium's Biobest was ranked number 3. **Inge Hanssen, R&D Manager at DCM Corporation:** "DCM Corporation is honoured that PMV®-01 was ranked number two for the inaugural Bernard Blum Award for Novel Biocontrol Solutions. We are very proud of this recognition. Our PMV®-01 plant vaccine is the result of many years of scientific research, which was performed in close collaboration with the Flemish tomato industry, and provides the growers with a biocontrol solution to combat this damaging viral disease. The PMV®-01 vaccination strategy protects tomato plants from severe losses in quality and yield caused by aggressive PepMV infections." Thijs De Langhe, market development PMV®-01 commented: "The active substance of PMV®-01 is authorized under EC regulation 1107/2009. DCM Corporation is now ready for the next steps of bringing PMV®-01 to the market both in- and outside the EU. PMV®-01 was already applied under emergency authorisations on more than 1500 ha of tomatoes with excellent results." **Biobest and Lallemand Plant Care** were also pleased that Flying Doctors with Prestop 4B was on the shortlist. Sarah Van Beneden, Product Manager at Biobest, says: "We're pleased with this recognition for our approach to sustainable strawberry and raspberry production. Flying Doctors bumblebees provide optimal pollination and distribute Prestop 4B to the flowers to achieve optimum natural protection against grey mold.



With this new application technique we can achieve a continuous protection of the flowers with a limited amount of product. First introduced in Belgium, we expect the technology to be commercially available in 2016 in the Netherlands, France and Scandinavia" Jean-Marc Sanchez, Area Manager at Lallemand Plant Care, also commented: "Next to our flagship product Prestop, the Prestop 4B is based on the same highly effective active ingredient, the beneficial fungus *Gliocladium catenulatum*. The formulation of Prestop 4B makes it suitable for distribution by bumblebees, a unique delivery system to control

flowerborne diseases such as grey mold. We are pleased to collaborate with Biobest to advance this sustainable technology in berries and are jointly exploring possible further uses."

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