

A **BIM 2017 set a record for attendance with 1046 delegates from 54 countries representing 511 companies gathering in Basel to discuss issues and trends in the biological pest control industry. The exhibition halls were full of activity, with 69 exhibitors holding discussions with customers, both new and old. A highlight of the opening session was the presentation of the Bernard Blum Award for Novel Biocontrol Solutions. Twelve entrants were received with three finalists selected by the committee: TREMOS, a digital electronic system from CBC Europe, LIFEWARD, a new microbial biofungicide from Certis USA and ULTI-MITE SWIRSKI, a biocontrol system from Koppert Biological Systems. The 2017 Bernard Blum Award was presented to TREMOS from CBC EUROPE. Innovation was not only limited to these nominees as more than 30 papers on a wide range of topics were included in the Plenary sessions during the conference. IBMA President, Willem Ravensberg, summarized ABIM 2017 by observing: "The Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting 2017 was such a well-attended gathering of the sector that we can say with confidence - there have rarely been so many people committed to biological pest management assembled under one roof."**

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