

Press release
29 November 2007

Andorra awards prizes for innovation

The Bureau of Business Innovation (OIE) of the Government of Andorra on Thursday handed out substantial prizes to innovators who have helped to transform their businesses and sectors through entrepreneurship and dynamism.

The international INNOVADORS'07 awards were presented on the sidelines of The Future of Europe Summit here, an event which is bringing together top policy makers, academics and executives in this tiny mountain state to brainstorm on the Brainpower Challenge.

“There is no science without innovation,” said Albert Pintat, Prime Minister of Andorra. “As Edmund Phelps (the 2006 Nobel Prize winner) reminded us in his speech today, we need risk, it is the driver of the entrepreneurial world. We need a cooperative attitude to fulfil this.”

The prizes are awarded to projects for setting up a firm in Andorra or expanding an existing one. They were initiated by the OIE in 2006 with the aim of diversifying the Andorran economy and improving the business environment.

The prizes were:

- Diversification winner E115,000 to **Andsoft**, a software company working in the transportation logistics sector.
- Creative category winner E115,000 to **House.ad**, a Web search engine grouping different real estate categories.

- Return of Andorran professional winner E50,000 to **Imand**, a digital databank specialised in the Pyrenees.
- Special prize winner E50,000 to **Andora Esport Accessible**, a company offering sports and rehabilitation for the impaired.

“This award ensures that the old Europe that we know is up to date. This is an example to the rest of Europe,” said Jacques Attali, Author and Chairman, Attali & Associés, France.

He said of Andorra: “You will be the first country with the entire population with fiber optic connections and that also makes you an example for the other countries.”

“If you have innovators, you have everything you need to become a crossroads.”