



Press Release

Karin Mateu
Media Relations
Tel.: +41 (0) 58 286 44 09
karin.mateu@ch.ey.com

Eric Saracchi is CIO of the Year 2018

Vienna, September 19, 2018 – The CIO of Firmenich SA has won the award for the best CIO. The award was presented on 19 September 2018 on the occasion of the 7th Confare Swiss CIO & IT Manager Summit in Zurich. The Head of Innovation and Technology Management of St. Claraspital AG, the CTO of Homegate AG, the CIO of PostFinance AG, the Head of ICT of Flughafen Zürich AG and VP Business IT of *Rickmers Shipmanagement GmbH & Cie. KG* were given the award as top CIOs of 2018. The Swiss CIO Award is the most important industry award and is presented by Confare in cooperation with the consulting firm EY.

Around 150 top-calibre IT decision-makers attended the 7th Swiss CIO & IT Manager Summit at the Hotel Marriott in Zurich at the invitation of conference organiser Confare. National as well as international IT managers and industry professionals gave talks and held discussions under the motto “Ecosystems . Create . Future”, addressing topics such as the transformation of a company, the creation of a new ecosystem and cyber incident management.

And this was when Eric Saracchi was named CIO of the Year. The winner was delighted. “This award is the recognition of a team which has embraced change and been through very challenging times. It is also an opportunity to share our fantastic journey over the last four years and receive feedback from key leaders in our country. We have grown into a digital transformation organisation during this time, and have had a lot of fun along the way,” said the newly elected Swiss CIO of the Year 2018.

The main task of selecting the Swiss CIO Award winner for 2018 and the other top CIOs from the many entries was allocated to a jury. It was made up of top-class figures: Prof. Dr. Stella Gatzu Grivas (University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland), Christoph Kleinsorg

(Swissport International Ltd.), Dr. Urs Monstein (VP Bank AG), Prof. Dr. Gerhard Schwabe (University of Zurich) and Rolf Trüeb (Die Mobiliar Insurance and Pensions).

“This year we received many high-quality submissions, which made the jury's work both more challenging and more exciting,” said Andreas Toggwyler, Partner and Head of IT Advisory at EY Switzerland. He went on to explain, “Eric Saracchi's entry impressed the jury because it stands out with its extraordinary innovative strength and methodical approach to ecosystems.”

These are the top CIOs in 2018

Besides Saracchi, others who were named top CIOs are: Dominique Schmid (St. Claraspital AG), Jens Paul Berndt (Homegate AG), Markus Fuhrer (Post Finance), Konrad Zöschg (Flughafen Zürich AG) and Oksana Näser (Rickmers Shipmanagement GmbH & Cie. KG). The awards were presented by Andreas Toggwyler and Michael Ghezze.

The top CIOs were delighted with the award:

Markus Fuhrer (Post Finance), “With the CIO Award I would like to lay the emphasis not so much on my personal contribution as a co-entrepreneur, but rather the people who have closely supported and accompanied me over the past few years. (...) The CIO Award affirms the important role of the CIO as a co-entrepreneur and the role the CIO plays in the development of the company, aiming at enhancing the company's value.”

Oksana Näser (Rickmers Shipmanagement GmbH & Cie. KG), “What the Swiss CIO Award means, not only to me but also to my team, is that particularly last year our work in the IT department has been more than successful, and we are on the right track.”

Confare founder and initiator of the Swiss CIO Award, Michael Ghezze, says: “IT management has enormous leverage when it comes to the company's success in a digital world. We create recognition and awareness for CIOs who realise this opportunity, while at the same time offering an opportunity for people to learn and be inspired by the best examples.”

The 8th Swiss CIO & IT Manager Summit will be held on 11 September 2019. Submissions for the Swiss CIO Award can be made until mid-June 2019. The submission documents will be available at www.cioaward.ch from the start of 2019.

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