

**Press Release**

Tokyo, January 28<sup>th</sup> 2016

**French Business Awards 2016: a showcase of the vitality of French companies in Japan!**

On the same evening as its traditional New Year's gathering, the CCI France Japon launched the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the French Business Awards. This annual competition rewards the most performing member-companies of 2015. 19 nominees were in competition to win one of the six prizes.

The CCI France Japon is pleased to announce the results of this great competition. The 2016 laureates are: **Horiba Ltd.** ("Company of the Year" Award), **Alldonet, Co.Ltd** ("SME/ Entrepreneur" Award), **Axa Life Insurance, Co.Ltd** ("Corporate Social Responsibility" Award), **Japan Experience (Vivre le Japon)** ("Product-Service of the Year" Award), **Locarise K.K.** ("French Tech Tokyo" Award) et **Linkers.Co.Ltd.** ("Jury's special Award").

The jury was composed of the President of the CCI France Japon, French and Japanese business leaders as well as a French business journalist. They selected among the nominees the most dynamic, innovative and performing companies which grounded their success on the Japanese market.

**This 5<sup>th</sup> edition introduces a new Award, specially created in the framework of the "French-Japanese Innovation Year": the "French Tech Tokyo Award", distinguishing the best performing start-up from the French Tech Tokyo ecosystem in 2014-2015.**

Coming from agribusiness, tech, cosmetics or services, all the candidates reflect the diversity and the vitality of the French-Japanese business relationships. "*Their success shows the vigor of the Japanese market. This economy still offers wonderful opportunities for innovative and audacious entrepreneurs*", says Bernard Delmas, President of the CCI France Japon.

The French Business Awards 2016 launch a new eventful year for the CCI France Japon. From April 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, "Bonjour France 2016" will animate Tokyo with a series of events dedicated to promote French lifestyle including the now must-attend "French Week" at Isetan Shinjuku.

**Company of the Year 2016: HORIBA, LTD.**

(Director, General Manager Research  
& Development Division: Dr. Masayuki Adachi)



The Horiba Group provides instruments and systems for R&D and quality control measurements, contributing to preservation of global environment. We supply emission gas analyzers to regulators and carmakers, to help keep the air clean and free of gas emission. We also provide ambient monitors for carbon dioxide, the major cause of global warming.

Horiba's close relationship with France began when we acquired ABX in Montpellier in 1996 and Jobin Yvon in Longjumeau in 1997. Since then, it has made R&D and capital investments. The number of employees in France has doubled in 15 years.

In 2015, the Chairman and CEO Atsushi Horiba received the insignia of Doctor Honoris Causa from Montpellier University for his contributions in the business world and efforts in support of education. Horiba helped the Languedoc-Roussillon Region and Kyoto Prefecture enter into a friendship alliance.

**Jury's Special Award 2016: LINKERS CO., LTD**

(Managing Executive Officer: Ms. Lisa Sakashita)



Linkers is the one-stop matching service for large manufacturing companies to find the best technical partners/suppliers in Japan.

We are the only company that has contracts with over 1,300 coordinators all over Japan. These coordinators are working in over 300 industrial support organizations and official institutions. Though this Linkers's unique network, we introduce our clients to the best partners in many Japanese small to medium-sized enterprises that have superb technologies within two months.

More than 100 leading companies from various industries have used Linkers matching service in our first year in business. Our success matching rate, the ratio of our clients who successfully found 2-3 appropriate companies and made some contracts with them in 1-2 months of searching through Linkers, is more than 90%.

**SME-Entrepreneur Award 2016: ALLDONET CO., LTD**

(CEO: Laurent Safa)



Alldonet is a leading provider of innovative cloud services designed to optimize operations in industrial fields, and to support the development of new IoT products. Alldonet services are based on AMON (Alldonet MONitoring engine), a proprietary technology for cloud and embedded systems. AMON can be easily adapted to the unique needs and processes of each customer, facilitating the transition from legacy processes to cloud-based IoT-powered operations. Alldonet Co.,Ltd. was founded four years ago in Japan. Following a rapid growth in local sales, it is now working on expending its sales to Europe and Asia.

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**CSR Award 2016: AXA LIFE INSURANCE CO., LTD**

(Executive Officer, Head of Human Resources: Mr. Takashi Tanemura)



As a part of diversity management, AXA Life Japan promotes employment of persons with different abilities (PwD), empowerment of women and transformation of work style as its business strategy. Notably, initiatives on employment of PwD are highly evaluated as an advanced system among AXA group companies.

Our surveys found that employees working with PwD have better understanding of value of promoting diversity and empathize in inclusion of minorities. They also show positive attitude toward initiatives on challenges for building employee-friendly work style.

They get involve in CSR activities by working closely with the PwD and that tends to develop their trust and pride toward the company. That fact proves employment of PwD brings non-financial value to the company.

**Product/Service of the Year 2016: JAPANEXPERIENCE (VIVRE LE JAPON)**

(Chief Operating Officer: Mr. Thierry Maincent)



Over the last few years the travel industry has seen a shift in customers moving away from traditional to experiential tourism and responsible travel, benefiting the local community without environmental impact.

Japan Experience saw a gap in the market, by replacing the traditional chain process of a travel company by providing customers with direct contact with their hosts in Japan, the Travel Angels. We wanted to provide guides who are travelers' "friends in Japan", allowing them to have personal and bespoke trips, resulting in once in an ultimate travel experience and life long memories. Through our Travel Angels, customers gain an authentic experience: immersing themselves into the local community, culture and experiencing how people in Japan go about their daily lives. Our unique service has proved very successful in the market, with our Travel Angels welcoming 8,000 international travelers in 2015.

**French Tech Tokyo Award 2016: LOCARISE K. K.**

(CEO and co-founder: Mr. Sebastien Béal)



Locarise offers a service of shoppers' behavior analytics thanks to connected devices installed in the stores. Sensors collect Wi-Fi and Bluetooth signals from smartphones in order to measure the traffic, the number of bystanders, the fidelity, the length of stay in the shop and the geographic origin of the visitors. Locarise also provides mobiles and web-based tools for retail commercial teams. They are meant to measure the efficiency of their merchandizing, rostering and marketing, in order to optimize their strategies. Locarise's solutions have already found some clients among the CCI France Japon's members.

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## About the French Business Awards

This annual competition rewards the best performing member-companies of the CCI France Japon in 2015 (activities, projects, results).

The competition awards prizes in six categories:

**“Company of the Year” Award:** this award rewards an outstanding company that has shown excellent performance and achievements in all aspects of its organization.

**“Jury’s Special Award”:** this juried award is given to the jury’s « coup de cœur » chosen from the official selection.

**“SME/Entrepreneur” Award:** this prize distinguishes the best SME or the best entrepreneur in the light of their recent achievements.

**“Service/Product of the Year” Award:** this prize distinguishes the most innovative, original and/or successful service or product developed and marketed in or for Japan.

**“French Tech Tokyo” Award:** this prize rewards the digital start-up displaying the highest potential of growth, outstanding originality in their project as well as the most forward-thinking and innovative ideas.

## The Jury of the French Business Awards

The jury was composed of 5 members:

- Bernard Delmas: President of the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry and President of Nihon Michelin Tire
- Armel Cahierre: President of Mediakeys Japan, CEO of B4F (Milleporte.com)
- Jérôme Chouchan: President of Godiva Japan
- Atsushi Nakajima: Chairman of the Research Institute of Economy Trade and Industry, IAA (RIETI)
- Yann Rousseau: Japan Bureau Chief of the French business newspaper “Les Échos”
- Tomoko Tanaka: Senior Manager, Orange/Orange Labs Tokyo

## 2016 Nominees

19 companies in total were selected on the basis of their applications:

### **"Company of the Year" Award**

- DATAWORDS JAPAN K. K.
- HORIBA, LTD.
- SOPEXA JAPON K. K.
- THALES JAPAN K. K.

### **"SME/Entrepreneur" Award**

- ALLDONET CO., LTD.
- CYEST CORPORATION.
- LUMISCAPHE K. K.

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**“Product/Service of the Year” Award**

- ARKADIN JAPAN CO., LTD.
- EDENRED JAPAN (BARCLAY VOUCHERS CO., LTD)
- JAPANEXPERIENCE – VIVRE LE JAPON
- LINKERS CO., LTD.
- PIERRE FABRE JAPON CO., LTD.

**“Corporate Social Responsibility” Award**

- AXA LIFE INSURANCE CO., LTD

**NEW in 2016 - “French Tech Tokyo” Award**

- ANIWAA
- CITYZEN GROUP JAPAN
- GIROPTIC
- LOCARISE K. K.
- NEXT LEVEL JAPAN K. K.
- PIJIN K. K.

**"Jury's Special Award"**

The winner is chosen by the Jury among the official selection.

**About the CCI France Japon**

The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI France Japon) is the first European Chamber in Japan thanks to a wide network of more than 520 members from diverse activity sectors (1/3 being Japanese companies). It is also a worldwide network of 30.000 company members of the 113 French Chambers based in 83 countries. Besides, the CCI France Japon is a member of the European Business Council where 29 sectorial committees are a strong force of lobbying to the Japanese Government.

The Chamber is a business club: more than 100 events are organized a year, giving a direct access to business and influence networks. The Chamber's publications provide an original and informative point of view on the Japanese market. The Chamber's employment and training service is a professional tool to hire and train teams in Japan. Eventually the business and start-up support: market research, help to set up new offices, providing canvassing and commercial support, finding partners, lending of equipped offices in Japan among other services.

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