

EFCA announces the Young Professional of the Year 2017

EFCA is delighted to announce that **Paul Doherty (Ireland)** is the winner of the eighth edition of the EFCA Young Professionals competition.

A total of 18 young professionals (13 male/5 female) from 7 countries entered the high-level contest. All projects were of remarkably high quality, which made the evaluation that much more difficult for the jury.



The winner, Paul Doherty, is 31 years old and is the Managing Director and one of the founding partners of specialist geotechnical engineering consultancy, Gavin and Doherty Geosolutions (GDG).

For his winning entry “The Irish Rail Cutting and Embankment Decision Support Tool Project”, Paul was responsible for project management. He developed and successfully delivered the final software programme that is now one of the most sophisticated risk ranking systems used by transport network managers worldwide.

Paul dedicated special attention to elements of sustainability, innovation, communication, and a wide range of technical expertise in Geoscience and Information Technology.

Paul has won a trip to Copenhagen to participate in the EFCA – FRI 2017 conference on 1-3 June, where he will present his project.

The jury also congratulates the two runners-up: Samuele Ambrosetti (Italy) and Ask Tonsgaard Brüel (Denmark).

Samuele Ambrosetti (Italy), 33 years old, is a specialist in physics (nuclear, sub-nuclear and astrophysics) and is working for D’Appolonia Corporation. Samuele was involved in the design, development, production and testing of a new kind of water bag and the setup of the first commercial service of water transfer using this system. As the originator of the idea, he was responsible for managing all technical issues, and following its successful development from outset to final successful service delivery.

Ask Tonsgaard Brüel (Denmark), 33 years old, is Associate Market Director of Sweco Denmark. He submitted a very ambitious project aimed at ‘increasing biogas yields through a new use of existing technology’. He took on many roles during this project. Not only as project manager, but also as structural designer and biogas specialist. The new technology is exceeding all expectations and will be extended to other biogas plants in Denmark.

Honorary mentions go to the following candidates:

- Sigurd Løvfall, 31, Norway
- Valeria Barbato, 34, Italy
- Joona Tuikka, 29, Finland
- Oona Anniina Rautiainen, 29, Finland
- Jens Bøttcher Meyer, 35, Denmark
- Suvi Saastamoinen, 30, Finland
- Ville Laine, 33, Finland

Certificates have been presented during an award ceremony at the annual EFCA conference on 2 June 2017 in Copenhagen. Conference website: <http://www.efca2017.eu/>