



The Antolin Family winners of the 14th Castile and Leon Business Family Award

- - **The Antolín family founded Grupo Antolin in the 1950s and have owned it since its creation.**
 - **The judging panel unanimously agreed to award it this prize, which will be presented at a special gala event to be held on December 10.**

The Antolín family has been honored with the 14th Castile and Leon Business Family Award, an award granted each year by the Castile and Leon Association of Family Businesses (EFCL) to recognize the achievements of a business family in the Castile and Leon autonomous community.

There was unanimous agreement about this decision among the judging panel which was chaired by the Director General for Industry in the Castile and Leon Government, Carlos Martín, and also included David Esteban (Cecale), Víctor García (Regional Council of Chambers of Commerce), José Luis Zurro (Garrigues), José Ángel Hermina (University of Leon), Rafael Barbero (Caja de Burgos Foundation), Alberto Cagigas (Castilla y León Económica), and also Lucía Urbán, member of the family who owns Grupo Siro, the previous winners of the award.

In making its decision, the judging panel highlighted the entrepreneurial character that has marked the career of the Antolín family from the group's origins in the 1950s, when the brothers Avelino and José Antolín, who along with their father Avelino Antolín López ran a small mechanical workshop in Burgos, developed and patented steering and suspension ball joints for automobiles.

This focus by Grupo Antolin on innovation from the very start was also recognized by the judging panel, which recalled that the company reinvests 3% of its sales in these activities and over its lifetime has registered 1,640 patents and 450 solutions, now having 800 engineers on its workforce.

For more information: <http://pressroom.grupoantolin.com>

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Present in 26 countries

In addition, the panel emphasized the diversification strategy followed by the company throughout its lifetime, with the manufacture of new automobile components and also since 1989 its international expansion, starting with opening its first factory abroad and ending up today with 161 centers in 26 countries globally.

Acquisition of Magna Interiors

Furthermore, it recalled the purchase this year of Magna Interiors, as a result of which Grupo Antolin has become one of the leading manufacturers of vehicle interiors in the world with sales of more than € 4 billion and a workforce of close to 28,000 employees made up of 29 different nationalities.

Generational change

Another of the aspects considered by the judging panel is the family's commitment to the future and the continuation of the group. The company has recently lived through a generation change in its Presidency, with José Antolín Toledano moving to take up the position of Honorary President, while Ernesto Antolín Arribas has been appointed President and María Héléne Antolín Raybaud Vice-President.

Along with these changes, Grupo Antolin has made considerable effort from the very start to guarantee the professionalism of its management. As a result, while the President and Vice-President of the company are family members, the company's CEO is an external professional, not related to the family, which results in a separation of duties facilitating quick and simple decision-making.

The judging panel also recalled that in 2013 the Antolín family purchased 22.8% of the company's shares that were in the hands of a group of banks, with the objective of guaranteeing sustainable growth and profitability over the following years.

As a result, the 100% family-owned company will continue to be led by the founding family, in this case the children of the Antolín brothers who represent the third generation.

Award Presentation

The award will be presented to the Antolín family on December 10 at a special gala event to be held in the Auditorium of the Valladolid Science Museum. It will be sponsored by the Caja de Burgos Foundation and held in collaboration with Sanitas.

The gala event will also see the awarding of the 2nd Academic Award, launched last year by EFCL to draw attention to the teaching and research work taking place in this sort of company, and the 2nd Communications Award, where family entrepreneurs recognize the work of the media in defending the values of a family run business.

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The gala event will also see the presentation of the 2nd Junior Forum Award, a children's drawing competition used by the EFCL to involve children in what it means to be part of a family company and help them understand the values inherent to this type of company.

The award

Launched by the EFCL in 2001, the Castile and Leon Business Family Award is awarded annually and was the first of its kind in the country. With it, the Association recognizes the success of a business family from Castile and Leon and its family unity, paying special attention to the origin and development of the company, its globalization, intergenerational continuity. The existence of rules that govern family/business relations, the jobs created and its business standing and recognition.

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