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CIT ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR CREATES GROWING BUSINESS

The Roll Out Vegetable Garden Company has picked up a €4,000 prize and the title of CIT **Entrepreneur of the Year** at the 2015 Cork CIT Prize for Innovation Awards Ceremony today [Friday 13th March] which also featured a keynote address from CIT Graduate and CEO of Slainte Healthcare, Andrew Murphy.

First Prize and title of CIT Entrepreneur of the Year went to sole trader and founder of the Roll Out Vegetable Garden Company, **Cara Tremayne** from Dunmanway, Co. Cork. Cara is a fourth year **Horticulture** student at CIT. The idea behind the business is to create a coco coir woven matting which is impregnated with vegetable seeds. The objective is that the matting works just like a roll out lawn but is more productive. Tremayne has worked in a garden centre for over ten years and also maintained a manor house vegetable garden for over four years.

The **Most Innovative Award** of €2,000 went to Votive Solutions, designers of Stride which is a drop foot device used for gait abnormality. The device is used to lift the front of the foot when taking a step to avoid excessive lifting of the foot or dragging of the toes while walking. The students worked in a multidisciplinary team to develop their business. Students are from Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering at CIT.

Best Business Plan of €1,500 was awarded to Gladium Medical. The device is a medical needle guidance system that allows needle positioning and stability for common intravenous operations to reduce user error and improve operator safety and confidence. The students are studying Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering at CIT.

Best Presentation Pitch of €1,500 was awarded to Sous Feed which is a company that aims to produce a high quality instant food product that is healthy and also affordable. The student who developed the product is studying in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality at CIT.

The NIMBUS Centre at CIT awarded a €5,000 **Product Development Prize**, which is worth over 20 days of research, to Sock-On, a device that can help someone to put on their own socks, if otherwise unable. It was inspired by a gap in the market and medical need identified by a member of the development team, who is a qualified occupational therapist. The students are from a multidisciplinary team studying Mechanical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering and Business studies at CIT.

Best Exhibition Stand of €1,000 was awarded to CSMonitoring.

The CIT Prize for Innovation is open to all departments within CIT and awards cash prizes to those whose inventions and business ideas are judged most creative, innovative, and most likely to succeed in the marketplace. The competition is supported by the Local Enterprise Offices Cork.

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