

Petra Pohořská collected the Entrepreneur of the Year 2019 for the Olomouc Region Award

Olomouc, January 17th 2020

The fourteenth year of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2019 competition in the Olomouc Region already knows its winners. Petra Pohořská, co-owner and chief operating officer of ABO valve in Olomouc, won the prestigious title. Pohořská is the first female winner of the competition in 14 years. On Thursday, February 13, during the ceremonial announcement of the results of the regional round, she received a prize and a check worth CZK 100,000.00 from the Olomouc Region Governor Ladislav Okleštek and the Deputy Governor Pavel Šoltys.

The independent jury chaired by Radka Prokopová, Alca plast co-owner and EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018, praised the perseverance and courage with which Pohořská plunged into establishing business partnerships across the continents, as well as dedication to her family business and respect for her father.

Winning a title in a prestigious competition is a great business success and a reward for the efforts made so far. *“Because we are a family business, this award goes to all of us. I would like to tell businessmen not to be afraid to apply for this competition, as participation in it is very inspiring. I would also like to encourage the entrepreneurs present here not to be afraid to enter foreign markets and expand with their business idea. I think that one of the important things that leads to success is to have a vision, to be purposeful to go get your own share and to have the courage to realize this vision,”* said Petra Pohořská after the results were announced. This is not the first success of ABO valve representatives in this competition. In 2006, Petra’s father, the founder of SIWATEC Group, Ing. Miroslav Študent won the very first title of Entrepreneur of the Year for the Olomouc Region.

We have our fingers crossed for Petra to go even further into the following nationwide round of the competition, whose results will be announced on March 3 in Prague. The winner of the nationwide round will represent the Czech Republic in June at the Monte Carlo World Finals.

The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year® (EY Podnikatel roku) is a prestigious global entrepreneurship competition to showcase outstanding personal business examples that can serve as a model to young, start-up entrepreneurs. Established in the United States in 1986, Ernst & Young, a consultancy firm, is the founder and worldwide organiser of the competition. The winner is selected by an independent jury consisting mainly of the previous winners of the competition. It currently spans almost 60 countries on six continents. As the competition is on an international scale, the criteria that apply to each individual participant being judged are comparable in each country. EY Entrepreneur of the Year has been awarded to Czech entrepreneurs since 2000.

More information on the competition and the results are available [HERE](#).

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ABO valve, s.r.o. is a leading Czech manufacturer of shut-off and check valves for industrial use. The company was established in 1993 as a subsidiary of Siwatec, a.s., a major supplier of pumping and irrigation technology, and is part of the SIWATEC Group. ABO valve has 3 production plants, R&D centre and 12 foreign branches on 3 continents. From the central headquarters in Olomouc-Chomoutov, the products go to more than 50 countries. The company specialises in the manufacture of butterfly valves with a wide range of industrial applications such as concentric butterfly valves, double and triple offset valves, knife gate valves, PTFE lined valves, check valves or ball valves.

The company emphasises quality and innovation and holds a number of international certificates including system certificates ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001.

For more information, visit the company website at www.abovalve.com.