



American Chemical Society's CM&E Group Gives Awards to Brilliant Leaders

Business group of the American Chemical Society NY Section celebrates 58 years of service with awards for outstanding leadership

New York City and Mexico City (July 30, 2012) – Today the Chemical Marketing and Economics (CM&E) group announced that on December 6, 2012, it will present its inaugural Awards for Leadership at the Yale Club in New York. The honorees are:

- Juan Pablo del Valle, Chairman of Mexichem, for outstanding global growth
- Peter McCausland, Chairman and CEO of Airgas, Inc., for lifetime achievement
- John Televantos, Partner at Arsenal Capital, for distinction in private equity

The Awards for Leadership have been established by CM&E, a topical group of the American Chemical Society's New York Section (ACS NY), to honor individuals for extraordinary contributions in the chemical industry. The CM&E awards are endorsed by ACS, the world's largest scientific society with 160,000 members.

"Among ACS' firmament of stars, the Chemical Marketing & Economics group of ACS New York Section shines with unique clarity on the confluence of technology, business and investment where society harnesses the transforming power of chemistry. Congratulations to CM&E for instituting the Award for Leadership during the 12-6-12 celebration of the group's 58th Anniversary!" said Madeleine Jacobs, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer at the ACS.

Prior to these awards, ACS NY's illustrious history has been kindled by the Nichols Medal established in 1903 for scientific discoveries. Since then, 108 scientists have received the medal, and 16 of them eventually became Nobel Prize winners in Chemistry. This year the CM&E Board identified a pool of nominees with exceptional credentials to match the high selectivity hallmark of ACS NY Section.



Juan Pablo del Valle, Chairman of Mexichem, for outstanding global growth.

Juan Pablo del Valle has been a visionary leader. In 2003, Mexichem was a Mexican domestic company with annual sales over USD258 million. The company has exhibited remarkable growth becoming a world-class enterprise with operations in 42 countries in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. Between 2003 and 2011, sales had multiplied 15 times to USD3.8 billion; EBITDA had grown 20-fold to USD840 million; and its market value had increased 42 times. In addition, under Mr. Del Valle's leadership the company concluded 75 acquisitions, including Ineos Fluor in 2010 and Wavin in 2012.

"Mr. del Valle's record in building value through bold acquisitions while fostering a tenacious culture that goes further to serve customers is truly impressive," said Mr. George Rodriguez, Chairman of CM&E, Board member of ACS NY Section and Director at Argeni. "In addition, his championing of corporate social responsibility, large low income housing projects and key nonprofit associations are emblematic of the qualities that CM&E seeks in a leader."

"It is an honor to receive this CM&E award that I will share with all employees at Mexichem and the Kaluz Group," Mr. del Valle said. "CM&E meetings provide fantastic cross-sector insights on relevant industry topics that I have found useful in shaping global strategies. Congratulations to CM&E for dedicating almost six decades of service to its members."

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CM&E Award Date

Thursday
December 6, 2012
Yale Club
New York City
11am – 3pm

Join us for the trifecta:

Awards for Leadership,
3rd Annual M&A Event
and CM&E's 58 years of
service to the chemical
and related industries.

**Webcast Available
To register click go to**

www.cmeacs.org

**About CM&E**

Established in 1954, Chemical Marketing & Economics (CM&E), a topical group of ACS New York Section, organizes monthly luncheons & webcasts where technology, business and investment leaders share their insights on materials, energy and life science.

ACS is the world's largest scientific society with 164,000 members. ACS has 39 scientific journals and a registry of 67 million inorganic and organic substances. Established in 1876 and chartered by the U. S. Congress, ACS is the premier professional home for chemists, chemical engineers and related professions around the globe.

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**Peter McCausland, Chairman and CEO of Airgas, Inc., for lifetime achievement.**

Mr. McCausland founded Airgas (NYSE: ARG) in 1982 with the purchase of Connecticut Oxygen, an industrial gas distributor with approximately \$3 million in sales. Through strategic growth initiatives and over 400 acquisitions in 30 years, McCausland has led Airgas to become one of the premier industrial gas companies in the U.S., with sales of more than \$4.7 billion in its most recent fiscal year. Since its initial public offering in 1986, Airgas has delivered a total return to shareholders that is among the highest in the S&P 500 Index.

"Few people can found a company, help propel it for three decades and turn it into a consistent top performer in its class," Mr. Rodriguez noted. "Mr. McCausland is a pioneer who has remained undaunted when faced with challenging market shifts. His passion for creating an environment focused on customers, strengthening operational efficiencies and helping society through his foundation constitutes an exemplary pillar for the chemical industry."

"The CM&E group of the American Chemical Society New York Section provides a strong foundation for professional networking and science education, which is fundamental for future generations," Mr. McCausland said. "I am honored to receive this lifetime achievement award and would like to express my profound gratitude to the CM&E group for this recognition and to the more than 15,000 Airgas associates who work tirelessly to bring value to our customers every day."

**John Televantos, Partner at Arsenal Capital, for distinction in private equity.**

Since 2006, Dr. Televantos has been with Arsenal Capital Partners where he serves as co-head of the Specialty Industrial practice of the firm with a focus on Specialty Chemicals and Materials. During his tenure with Arsenal he has been part of the acquisitions of Fluoro-Seal, Royal Adhesives & Sealants, Evonik's Colorants business, and the acquisition and subsequent divestiture to BASF of Novolyte Technologies. Prior to Arsenal, Dr. Televantos was President of Aqualon Company, owned by Hercules Incorporated, President and Founder of Helios Chemical Company, and Chief Executive Officer for Foamex International.

"Dr. Televantos' central role in Arsenal's top deal-making team and his distinguished record as a CEO make him an icon in Specialty Chemicals M&A," Mr. Rodriguez noted. "His insights and eloquence were enthusiastically received by our members when he was a panelist of our M&A Luncheon in 2011. CM&E is proud to recognize a most prolific leader."

"I am honored to receive the CM&E award for leadership in the field that is most dear to me," Dr. Televantos said. "I have been impressed by the stimulating networking, actionable insights and the splendid quality of the meetings organized by this topical group of the American Chemical Society dedicated to business and investments and by its unwavering support for science education."

The American Chemistry Council, the Chemists' Club, Société de Chimie Industrielle, SOCMA and the New York Biotechnology Association will help promote the 12-6-12 CM&E award presentation and M&A event. Funds raised will help bolster ACS scholarships, National Chemistry Week (K-12) and other science education programs. For more information about CM&E awards, events and sponsorships, please go to www.cmeacs.org.