

News Release



BASF supports sustainable success of young spray painters at WorldSkills finals in Abu Dhabi

- **Yingcheng Jiang from China takes first place in Car Painting category**
- **Special award for sustainability goes to Switzerland**
- **Participants exclusively worked with products from BASF's Glasurit refinish brand**

Identifying the exact color code, mixing paint to match the original color and shade, preparing the car body, and finally applying the coating – at the 44th edition of WorldSkills, the world championship of apprenticeships, 26 spray painters proved that automotive refinishing is a highly complex trade.

During the finals in Abu Dhabi, the participants in the Car Painting category presented their skills to a professional jury which was impressed by the accuracy and technical know-how of the finalists. After an exciting competition, the gold medal went to Yingcheng Jiang from China. Silver went to Daryl Head from the UK while Maurus von Holzen from Switzerland, Jonas Heinze from Germany and Enzo Barragato from France won bronze medals.

For BASF's Coatings division, a global sponsor of WorldSkills, the competition is an ideal opportunity to support the next generation of automotive refinishers. It is one of numerous contributions to make young talents excited about the spraypainting profession.

Another way to support the education of spray painters is BASF's global STAMPP program, an internationally standardized one-year

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training for new automotive refinishing technicians, conducted in partnership with selected vocational schools and body shops. The success of the program was demonstrated at WorldSkills as this year's gold medal winner, Yingcheng Jiang, studies at the Hangzhou Technician Institute in China, which introduced STAMPP in 2016.

Sustainable way of working honored

At the WorldSkills finals, all spray painters exclusively worked with products from the Glasurit portfolio, BASF's premium automotive refinish brand. Prior to the competition, they had been trained on how to use Glasurit and hence knew the benefits of the sustainable waterborne technology of 90 Line.

During the competition, the jury also paid close attention to how sustainable the participants' approach to each task was. For his performance, Maurus von Holzen from Switzerland received a special sustainability award because, among other things, he used less material than the other finalists.

René Lang, Vice President Sales Management Automotive Refinish EMEA at BASF's Coatings division, praised the participants' attitude towards sustainability: "For BASF and the Glasurit brand, education and environmentally friendly behavior go hand in hand. Only with the appropriate knowledge can we create awareness for the issue and make sustainable choices."

"By selecting the right products, reducing waste and re-using materials, young spray painters are in a position to combine ecological vision and economic success. We are proud that the participants not only presented their technical abilities during WorldSkills, but were also able to show that they understand the importance of a sustainable way of working," added Lang.

About BASF's Coatings division

The Coatings division of BASF is a global expert in the development, production and marketing of innovative and sustainable automotive OEM and refinish coatings, as well as decorative paints. We create advanced performance solutions and drive

performance, design and new applications to meet our partners' needs all over the world. BASF shares skills, knowledge and resources of interdisciplinary and global teams for the benefit of customers by operating a collaborative network of sites in Europe, North America, South America and Asia Pacific. In 2016, the Coatings division achieved global sales of about €3.2 billion.

In 2016, BASF acquired Chemetall, a leading global supplier of applied surface treatments for metal, plastic and glass substrates in a wide range of industries and end markets. With this expansion in portfolio, BASF becomes a more complete solution provider for coatings.

Solutions beyond your imagination – Coatings by BASF. For more information about the Coatings division of BASF and its products, visit www.basf-coatings.com.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry for a sustainable future. We combine economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. The approximately 114,000 employees in the BASF Group work on contributing to the success of our customers in nearly all sectors and almost every country in the world. Our portfolio is organized into five segments: Chemicals, Performance Products, Functional Materials & Solutions, Agricultural Solutions and Oil & Gas. BASF generated sales of about €58 billion in 2016. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (BAS). Further information at www.basf.com.