

Press Release

Friday, 18 December 2020

University of the Balearic Islands students Gabriel Barceló, Pablo González and Rafael Quart, receive the “Best Final Master’s Degree Dedicated to ICT Innovation in the field of Tourism and/or eCommerce” awards for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 academic years.

The inaugural “WebBeds Awards”, organised by the Fundació Universitat-Empresa de les Illes Balearic Islands (FUEIB) and supported by locally headquartered global B2B travel booking platform, WebBeds, aims to encourage technological innovation and reward students' efforts in the field of ICT innovation in the field of tourism and/or e-commerce.

The three students have been awarded for their final degree projects at the event held at the Sala de Actos at the University. “Mallorca is blessed with a talent pool in Tourism and Technology and the University provides a key conduit for students into these industries. Being able to partner and be part of the award process gives WebBeds an opportunity to both reflect on the creativity and innovation of the students and also provide some guidance as to where their ideas can grow in the industry.” said Graham Anderson, CIO WebBeds. “Public-private collaboration is important to recognize and attract talent. The winning works try to respond to real problems of society, which is an aspect of practical applicability that makes us grow as a society through the transfer of knowledge” added Llorenç Huguet, Rector of the Universitat of Balearic Islands.

The event was attended by the Rector, Dr. Llorenç Huguet; the Vice-Rector for Innovation and Institutional Relations, Jordi Llabrés; the director of the University-Business Foundation, Luis Vegas; as well as award-winning students and their tutors. Attending from WebBeds was Graham Anderson, Chief of Information Officer; Francisco Cobos, Agile Coach; and Ricardo Galli, Head of Global Data Architecture, Innovation and Group Infrastructure Services.

The **Final Degree Project** is an autonomous project under Tutor’s guidance. This project is intended to help students practice their newly acquired skills, to show that they acquired the necessary competences associated with the degree, this project takes place in the last year. This final Project is known in Spain as (TFG).

The winning projects, each receiving a diploma and prizes valued at 1,500, 1,000 and 500 euros respectively, included:

- **First Prize: Gabriel Barceló Soteras**, with the **Final Degree Project** (TFG) Implementation of an electronic contract signing scheme based on blockchain, tutored by Josep Lluís Ferrer, professor of the Telematics Engineering Area.
- **Second Prize: Pablo González Maya**, with the **Final Degree Project** (TFG) System of automatic tests for Smart TV applications, tutored by Antoni Bibiloni and Antoni Oliver, professors of the Area of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence.

- **Third Prize: Rafael Quart Deyá**, with the **Final Degree Project (TFG)** Analysis, management and implementation of Smyrooms Extranet, the bed bench of the Logitravel group, tutored by Isaac Lera, professor of the Area of Architecture and Computer Technology.

The selection committee for the WebBeds Awards was made up of Luis Vegas, Francisco Cobos, Ricardo Galli and Jordi Llabrés, vice-rector for Innovation and Institutional Relations at the UIB, and chairman of the selection committee.

end.

For further information on the awards, please contact Francisco Cobos: francisco.cobos@webbeds.com

About WebBeds

Launched in 2013, WebBeds is the world's fastest growing bedbank. A B2B business, WebBeds supplies accommodation and services to the travel industry, providing global coverage through three regions – Europe, Asia Pacific and AMEA (America, Middle East and Africa) with over 1,600 travel professionals working in 50 offices worldwide.

WebBeds provides a global distribution network of travel trade partners with the choice of more than 368,000 hotels around the world, comprising 30,000+ direct contracts, 70+ integrated third-party providers and 60+ major hotel chain groups. WebBeds sells to over 200 destination countries through clients in more than 145 source markets worldwide.

Clients can access this huge choice of inventory, (ranging from affordable guesthouses to luxury hotels and including international chain hotels, city-centre and resort properties) via market-leading, trade-only websites or simple and seamless platform to platform API connectivity. Clients can also book over 5,500 transfer services in 1,200 destinations along with thousands of guided excursions and tickets for attractions.

WebBeds also provides tailor-made travel arrangements for groups of all sizes covering corporate and leisure, special interest, education and MICE via its dedicated and award-winning DMC division, and operates specialist travel brand Umrah Holidays International, a genuine pioneer in providing online pilgrimage travel services to travel agencies worldwide.

Find out more about the WebBeds business at www.webbeds.com

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About Webjet Limited

Webjet Limited (ASX: WEB) is an ASX 200 listed company operating a digital travel business spanning both wholesale markets (through B2B) and consumer (through B2C).

The B2B travel business, WebBeds, is the world's second largest and fastest growing accommodation supplier in the wholesale travel market. It operates global coverage through three regional divisions - Europe, Asia Pacific and AMEA (America, Middle East and Africa). The B2C travel business operates Webjet, the market leading OTA brand in Australia and New Zealand, and Online Republic, which specialises in the provision of online car and motorhome bookings.

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