

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**2021 SICC Awards: Celebrating Collaborative Innovation**

***6<sup>th</sup> annual awards to recognize Singapore's Champions of Collaborative Innovation***

19 October 2021 –Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC) today hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Awards Gala to celebrate and recognize Singapore's 2021 Champions of Collaborative Innovation. The Chamber's first hybrid event connected in-person guests at the Suntec Hybrid Studio with online guests.

The 2021 SICC Awards were presented by Guest-of-Honour, Ms. Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and officiated by Mr. Per Magnusson, SICC Chairman. [Please refer to Appendix A for the Minister's speech]

Over 200 in-person and online guests attended the event comprising awards finalists, innovators, business leaders, Chamber members, Singapore government officials and local media.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the 2021 SICC Award Winners in each of four categories. They are:

- **Best Technological Collaboration**
  - SmartCost System & ROI Management  
By SMT Technology Pte Ltd and LeanCost International Pte Ltd
  
- **Most Scalable Collaboration**
  - Building-Scale Energy Disaggregation for Smart Township Management  
By Sunseap Solutions Pte Ltd and Ampotech Pte. Ltd.
  
- **Most Sustainable Collaboration**
  - GeoBarrier System  
By Hocklim Engineering Pte Ltd, Housing & Development Board (HDB), Building & Research Institute, and Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

- **Most Transformational Collaboration**
  - ICC AOKpassBy AOKpass Pte Ltd and International SOS

[Please refer to Appendix B for more details on the Winners of the 2021 SICCA Awards]

Open to members and non-members, the SICCA Awards provide an inclusive platform to celebrate, recognize and learn from Singapore's Champions of Collaborative Innovation. These businesses collaborate and leverage their collective strengths to build new capabilities, products and services to drive growth and profits. By showcasing these success stories, the Chamber aims to encourage other businesses to take the fastest route to innovation and growth by collaborating.

**Per Magnusson, SICCA Chairman remarked:**

"Given all the challenges our world faces with climate change and the impact of the pandemic, I am reminded time and time again the only way forward for the human race, businesses and countries is to collaborate for mutual benefit. Solutions will only happen when people collaborate to innovate even while they compete in commerce and trade. This is precisely why we think the SICCA Awards are so meaningful."

**Victor Mills, SICCA Chief Executive said:**

"Each year I am encouraged and impressed by the collaboration journeys spotlighted by the SICCA Awards. All participating businesses are trailblazers and the winners are true champions. They show just what is possible by collaborating to innovate."

Full details of the awards and this year's finalists are available on the 2021 SICCA Awards microsite [www.siccardwards.com.sg](http://www.siccardwards.com.sg).

Photos of 2021 SICCA Awards Gala can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/3pgP2t5>

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### **About Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC)**

SICC and its members have been helping businesses and Singapore since 1837. It is Singapore's longest-serving, independent voice of the private sector. The Chamber is very inclusive: 50% of its members are Singaporean owned businesses and 50% foreign owned. Half of member companies are large organizations including multinationals and half are medium, small and start-up companies. No other voluntary business association in Singapore has such a diverse membership base drawn from all sectors of the economy.

The Chamber's members form a network of purpose connecting people so they can collaborate to learn, innovate and expand business opportunities.

The SICC ecosystem champions anti-ageism in the workforce and in society for commercial and societal success. SICC champions positive workplace culture where employers and employees co-create and sustain an environment where foreign and local talent are integrated, developed and enabled to excel to achieve personal and commercial success.

SICC also champions collaborative innovation because that is often the fastest way to innovate and succeed. Last, but not least, SICC advocates the transitioning of businesses and society to circular models of production and consumption to achieve true sustainability for our planet and species in a circular economy.

[www.sicc.com.sg](http://www.sicc.com.sg) [www.siccawards.com.sg](http://www.siccawards.com.sg)

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**Appendix A: Minister's Speech**

ADDRESS BY GUEST-OF-HONOUR MS GRACE FU  
MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (SICC)  
2021 SICC AWARDS GALA  
19 OCTOBER 2021, 5.15PM

Mr Per Magnusson, Chairman, Singapore International Chamber of Commerce (SICC)

Mr Victor Mills, Chief Executive, SICC

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening.

2 I am pleased to join you today for the SICC Awards ceremony. The Awards celebrate innovation and collaboration — elements which have always been important for businesses to thrive. They provide opportunities to improve productivity, develop new products and expand into new markets. Now, more than before, such partnerships between organisations are essential in addressing the existential threat of climate change.

3 About three weeks ago, I was at the United Nations Climate Change Pre-conference, also known as preCOP26. It was the last informal meeting to take stock of the progress made to the Paris Agreement and exchange views on the negotiations before COP26 next month. The meeting laid out the immense work that lies ahead of us and reinforced the importance of collective action in meeting our climate goals. No single country or entity can do it alone and everyone has a role to play in advancing climate action.

4 Earlier this year, we launched the Singapore Green Plan 2030, a whole-of-nation movement to advance Singapore's national agenda on sustainable development. The Green Plan sets out ambitious and concrete sectoral targets under five key pillars — City in Nature,

Sustainable Living, Energy Reset, Green Economy and Resilient Future. All pillars present opportunities for collaborative innovation as Singapore transitions towards a low-carbon future. Let me share three ways in which partnerships can help businesses become more sustainable.

### **Climate Mitigation**

5 First, innovation and collaboration are key to mitigating climate change, by reducing and capturing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and exploring alternative low-carbon energy. Businesses can provide much needed resources for R&D and commercialisation as the world searches for solutions to decarbonise at scale. The Government has launched a S\$49 million Low-Carbon Energy Research Funding Initiative to support research, development, and demonstration projects in low-carbon energy technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture utilisation and storage (CCUS). It will guide private consortiums on the deployment of low-carbon solutions and the development of the hydrogen supply chain. This is an area the oil and gas sector can potentially contribute in. Identifying synergies on Jurong Island can give us an advantage in transforming the Island into a sustainable energy and chemicals park.

6 Partnerships across different industries are also valuable through horizontal adoption of technology. Many of you will be familiar with Singapore's water story, and how we have closed the water loop through the development of NEWater. Today, we continue to push frontiers to reduce energy intensity and carbon emissions from water recycling. We are looking into biomimetic membranes to improve NEWater recovery with no increase in energy consumption. This membrane technology has the potential to be applied in other areas, such as in kidney dialysis devices in the biomedical field.

### **Climate Adaptation**

7 Second, businesses contribute solutions for climate adaptation. The latest IPCC report suggests increased levels of warming, global precipitation and sea level rise by 2100 largely due to human influences. These could have an amplified effect on Singapore. Extreme weather patterns

affect crops and impact transportation and energy, disrupting supply chains. Sea level rise also poses physical risks to assets and infrastructure.

8 Through collaborative innovation, businesses can overcome these challenges. Our farms, for instance, are partnering technology solution providers to ramp up their productivity and reduce vulnerability to external environmental changes. Our farmers are able to cultivate vegetables indoors in a controlled environment with artificial lighting. Using smart sensors, parameters such as temperature and humidity are detected and automatically adjusted to optimise the environment for growth.

9 One of the finalists for the SICC Awards is a project by Hocklim Engineering, NTU and HDB to enhance a GeoBarrier System. The project will serve to maintain earth retention and slope stability during intense rainfall. As we expect more extreme rainfall events in Singapore, this innovative solution will help to strengthen our adaptation measures.

### **Green Growth**

10 Third, as the world witnesses the emergence of alternative forms of energy, and ways of production and consumption, new businesses will emerge and our companies will do well to ride the wave of sustainability, which will be a new engine for growth and jobs in Singapore.

11 Building on our reputation as a trusted financial and business hub in the region, we have the ambition to develop Singapore as a carbon trading and services hub. Arising from the Government's Emerging Stronger Taskforce Alliance for Action on Sustainability, DBS, SGX, Standard Chartered Bank and Temasek announced their plans in May to develop the Climate Impact Exchange. This will be a carbon exchange and marketplace for companies to access high-quality carbon offsets. Through satellite monitoring, machine learning and block chain technologies, it will address the need for transparency, quality and integrity of carbon credits.

12 In our pursuit of a circular economy, where waste is recovered as a resource instead of being discarded, we aim to reduce the amount of waste sent to our landfill by 30 per cent by 2030.

I am encouraged by Sembcorp Solar Singapore and Singapore Polytechnic's project to recycle used solar panels and address photovoltaic waste. This will have useful applications as we scale up our solar energy deployment.

13 In another partnership, Dow Chemical and B.T. Sports developed an environmentally friendly surface material for tennis courts. This new material allows for almost immediate play after rain as it allows the rainwater to permeate below the play surface, and removes the need to deploy water rollers, which are susceptible to wear and tear. These creative ideas will help to extend the lifespan of our landfill and maximise the utility of our resources, while providing new areas of growth for businesses.

## **Conclusion**

14 Let me conclude. Innovation and partnerships are beneficial for businesses as they transform to become more sustainable. Such initiatives also help companies to mitigate risks and tap on new opportunities that arise from climate change. The Government will support companies in the green transition and development of sustainable products through various grants and programmes.

15 I thank SICC for encouraging businesses to innovate and collaborate, and offer my heartiest congratulations to finalists and winners from all four award categories. I hope you continue to find ways to innovate and work together to build a more resilient and sustainable Singapore.

Thank you.

## **Appendix B: 2021 SICC Awards Winners**

### **1. Best Technological Collaboration**

#### **SmartCost System & ROI Management**

By SMT Technology Pte Ltd and LeanCost International Pte Ltd

LeanCost and SMT became acquainted through IPI's introduction who saw in them a potential collaboration match since SMT has the latest model factory for PE Industry 4.0 Smartline while LeanCost has proprietary solutions and expertise to convert all the technical data in Operational software into costs in real-time.

They shared and studied each other's technologies and integrated LeanCost's data analytics solution with SMT's Smartline software real-time operational data to co-develop SmartCost. This innovation addresses a current problem of HM-LV manufacturers by providing real-time product costs and detecting potential cost-savings opportunities at process and machine levels.

### **2. Most Scalable Collaboration**

#### **Building-Scale Energy Disaggregation for Smart Township Management**

By Sunseap Solutions Pte Ltd and Ampotech Pte. Ltd.

The objective is to develop a proprietary analytical algorithm that disaggregates energy consumption data for common facilities in Housing and Development Board buildings based on a single point of data collection in main switchrooms in real-time.

Sunseap Solutions achieved this via a tailored Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring (NILM) solution based on the use of artificial intelligence while Ampotech supported with customized hardware to log and transmit high volumes of data cost-effectively. By making sense of otherwise raw aggregated energy data, users such as town councils could optimize the service and maintenance of equipment and make informed decisions to improve efficiency.



**3. Most Sustainable Collaboration**

**GeoBarrier System**

By Hocklim Engineering Pte Ltd, Housing & Development Board (HDB), Building & Research Institute, and Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

The “Enhancement of GeoBarrier System” aims to elevate the design and function of an existing innovative product, known as the GeoBarrier System (GBS), and position for wide scale implementation and commercialization. Jointly developed and patented by HDB and NTU, the GBS is a novel earth retention and slope stabilization system that is effective in maintaining slope stability during intense rainfall. The GBS uses recycled aggregates instead of concrete, which sets it apart from traditional earth retaining walls.

**4. Most Transformational Collaboration**

**ICC AOKpass**

By AOKpass Pte Ltd and International SOS

AOKpass and International SOS/MedAire are partnered for the development, implementation and distribution of ICC AOKpass digital health certificate and mobile app, which forms part of the entire Workforce Resilience Solution for businesses, organizations and individuals in Singapore and globally. They are also partnered by the International Chamber of Commerce, the world’s largest business organization representing 45 million institutional members in over 100 countries.