



## PRESS RELEASE

### **CEO of BRAIN AG nominated as „Entrepreneur of the year 2016“**

**Zwingenberg, November 18, 2016 – Today, in the German Historical Museum in Berlin, the "Entrepreneur of the year" will be announced and honoured for the twentieth time by the auditing and advisory company EY. Among the finalists is Dr Jürgen Eck, CEO of the bioeconomy company BRAIN AG (ISIN DE0005203947 / WKN 520394). The award recognizes top business achievements in more than 60 countries. An independent jury of well-known economists selects the award winners in the categories service/IT, industry, consumer goods/retail as well as start-up. After a multi-stage, strict selection, 35 companies/entrepreneurs have made the leap into the German final of the competition "Entrepreneur of the year 2016".**

The most important criteria of the jury for the selection of the finalists are growth, future potential, innovative power, employee leadership and social responsibility of the entire company. Jury members Dr Patrick Adenauer, Managing Director of Bauwens GmbH & Co. KG, Professor Dr Ulrike Detmers, partner and member of the central management of the Mestemacher Group, Florian Noell, CEO of the German Startups Association, Professor Dr Christine Volkmann, Chair of Entrepreneurship and Economic Development & UNESCO-Chair of Entre-

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preneurship and Intercultural Management, Schumpeter School of Business and Economics, University of Wuppertal, and Dr Manfred Wittenstein, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of WITTENSTEIN AG jointly decide on the award winners in the different categories.

"It is always fascinating to see the business ideas and successes of our country. This year, again, I am very impressed by all the entrepreneurs elected", said Hubert Barth, CEO of EY GmbH.

Dr Jürgen Eck is looking forward to the award ceremony in Berlin: "It is a great honour for me to be nominated by the jury as one of the finalists. The selection process was very exciting, and it is always impressive to see how creative and successful the German entrepreneurs from all sectors are. However, I would like to emphasize that at BRAIN the star is the team! It honours and motivates us to have reached this far stage of the Entrepreneur of the Year 2016 competition."

Some of the prize-winners of the last years were, amongst others, Professor Götz Werner of dm drug stores (2008), Professor Klaus Hipp of Hipp OHG (2010), Stefan Draeger of Draegerwerk (2012), Dr Andreas Kaufmann of Leica Cameras (2013), Uwe Arendt of Nomos Glashütte, and Ralf Zastrau of Nanogate AG (2015).

One of the winners will be given the additional opportunity to represent Germany in the "World Entrepreneur of the Year" election, which takes place annually in Monte Carlo. The competition is supported by well-known companies and the media, such as LGT Bank, Jaguar Land Rover, Strategic Management Consulting for Communication CNC as well as Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and manager magazine in addition to EY.



## About BRAIN

BRAIN AG is one of Europe's leading technology companies in the field of industrial biotechnology, the core discipline of the bioeconomy. As such, BRAIN identifies previously untapped, efficient enzymes, microbial producer organisms or natural substances from complex biological systems that can be put to industrial use. The innovative solutions and products developed by help of this "Toolbox of Nature" are successfully applied in the chemistry, the cosmetics and the food industries. Today, BRAIN's business model is based on two pillars – "BioScience" and "BioIndustrial".

The first pillar, "BioScience", comprises its – frequently exclusive – collaboration business with industrial partners such as BASF, Ciba, Clariant, Evonik, DSM, Genencor, Henkel, Nutrinova, RWE, Sandoz, Schering, Südzucker and Symrise to mention just a few. The second pillar "BioIndustrial" comprises the development and commercialisation of BRAIN's own products and active product components. In FY 2014-5 the group generated a total output of ca Euro 25.7m and employed about 220 persons.

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The CEO of BRAIN AG is one of the finalists for the award „Entrepreneur of the Year 2016“.

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