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### **Security Industry Awards Excellence**

The Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) hosted the ISIA Awards on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at Carton House Hotel. The awards were attended by individuals from the private security industry and security management from various industries. Also in attendance were members of An Garda Síochána and the Irish Coast Guard.

As pointed out by ISIA President, John Lawlor "The ISIA Awards provides an opportunity to recognise the great work that the private security industry carries out and it contributes to ensuring that standards within the security industry are kept high. It also provides the industry with an opportunity to acknowledge those individuals and groups that keep the island of Ireland safe and to give recognition to them". This year the ISIA presented five awards: The Premier Award, Courage Award, Security Officer of the Year, Event Security Person of the Year & an award for Innovation in Security.

The Premier Award was presented to An Garda Síochána for the success of the security operations carried out during the visits of HM Queen Elizabeth II and United States President Obama. "It was important to us to recognise the outstanding role that An Garda Síochána played in ensuring the security operations for both visits were a success" stated ISIA President, John Lawlor. The award was accepted on behalf of the entire force by Garda Commissioner Martin Callinan. On accepting the award the Commissioner stated "while we tried at all times to minimise the impact of security arrangements, we know that people were inconvenienced and we therefore appreciated in particular the fact that we were almost always met with goodwill and good humour from people. The success of the visits was greatly enhanced by strong partnership and cooperation between a range of State agencies". The Garda Commissioner in thanking the ISIA for this award also paid tribute to the men and women of An Garda Síochána and pointed out that their "dedication and professionalism is recognised by this award and greatly appreciated by both me and the community". Also in attendance on the night were Deputy Commissioner Noirin O'Sullivan and Assistant Commissioner Michael Feehan, Dublin Metropolitan Region.

This year's recipient of the Courage Award was the Irish Coast Guard for the ongoing acts of courage and bravery continuously shown in all of the work they do which minimises the loss of life within the Irish Search and Rescue Region. Chris Reynolds, Director of the Irish Coast Guard was in attendance on the night to accept the award on their behalf who pointed out that "their work is normally a silent service and a successful operation is one that doesn't get attention. It is therefore a honour for the men and women of the Irish Coast Guard to be awarded for their work".

The award for Security Officer of the Year was presented to John Corcoran, Synergy Security Solutions, for the outstanding work he does at Fournier Laboratories, part of Abbott Global Pharmaceuticals, and the excellent contribution he makes to their operation. The winner of Event Security Person of the Year was Sandra Kelly of Sword, who was specifically nominated for the work she carries out at the O2. This award recognises the unique challenges faced by event security staff and the contribution they make to the overall customer experience. The award for Innovation in Security was presented to Niscayah. The ISIA felt it was important to develop an award that recognised innovation in the industry. Sarah O'Donnell, Communication Director, ISIA stated, "we are confident that this will foster and encourage a commitment to innovation, which will ultimately drive competitiveness, quality, a higher level of service and customer satisfaction in the security industry overall".