

## FICOSA SORIA wins the 2010 award for Industrial Excellence in Spain

**Barcelona, 12 July 2010** -. The Soria Plant owned by Ficoso, the Spanish multinational manufacturer of automotive systems and components has won this year's edition of the Industrial Excellence awards, organised in Spain by IESE business school together with its counterparts INSEAD (France) and WHU (Germany).

The "Industrial Excellence Award" seeks to recognise the work of companies that, thanks to their operating excellence and management quality, contribute to the industrial competitiveness of Europe. The award ceremony was held in Spain for the second time, although it has a long history of more than 15 years in Europe, mostly in France and Germany.

The award ceremony took place today in IESE, Barcelona and was presided over by Carme Botifoll, managing director of ACCIO10, and attended by Jordi Canals, director general of IESE, Francisco Garrigues, director general of Martínez Loriente (last year's winner), and Federic Sabrià, professor at IESE, among others.

The chairman of Ficoso, José María Pujol, expressed his sincere gratitude for the award and stressed that "more than an award for technical aspects, this award is a reflection of the excellent human quality of our employees in Soria; of their work and daily efforts in striving for excellence". José María Pujol reminded everyone with emotion that "it is this approach and spirit that allowed the company to overcome the fire which completely destroyed the plant in 1995 and that today makes the plant one of the mainstays for the Group".

The finalist companies for this year's "Industrial Excellence Award" were Vestas, (*aerogenerators*), second prize, Codorniu (*cava*), Igeotest (*geotechnical engineering*) and Ega Master (*hand tools*).

Ficoso Soria, as winner of the prize in Spain, will compete with the winners from Germany, France and Switzerland to take the overall European prize on 9 September in Düsseldorf, Germany.

**About Ficosa Soria**

Ficosa has had a presence in Soria capital since 1989. It currently has a team of 750 people (51.5% women). Its turnover in 2009 stood at €80m. Over the last few months, and despite the crisis, Ficosa Soria has created 140 new jobs.

The plant, mainly dedicated to the production of rear view mirrors for vehicles, is one of the largest in the Ficosa Group at a world level, covering an area of 27,000 m<sup>2</sup>. It has recently launched a specific Training Centre in the plant, the first in the entire Group, which aims to train, empower and refresh the employees and management at the plant, both current and future, as well as employees and management from other plants within the company and suppliers and students from the area, in line with the Group's plans to convert the Soria plant into an international Centre of Excellence.

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