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# Disinfection robot for overcoming social challenges

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The German-Polish team of Omron Europe has received an award for the development of an automated UV disinfection robot. In Germany, OMRON partner ICA Traffic GmbH has launched the UV-C disinfection robot as HERO21. The mobile device is the first of its kind and offers a nationwide service infrastructure. The annual OMRON Global Awards (TOGA) aim to inspire company employees to approach daily work tasks from a social perspective and to use their technical expertise and the company's capabilities to innovate for the benefit of society.

This competition focuses on the most pressing social problems of our time. This time, the focus of the awards was on developing solutions to mitigate the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic. Out of a total of 6,461 project submissions, the disinfection robot project led by a team of German and Polish employees emerged as the overall winner for the EMEA region. The jury particularly praised the rapid development of the autonomous UV-C robot, which disinfects high-risk areas such as hospitals, schools and offices without human intervention.

"The disinfection robot is helping to contain the spread of Covid-19. It's a clear response to the greatest social challenge of our time. Congratulations to the team for a well-deserved Gold Award!"

- Gary Banks, General Affairs Manager

Since the contest was launched in 2012, employees have submitted more than 40,000 entries. Through a year-round program of global community projects, employees at all levels and in all regional offices are encouraged to think beyond their daily work and consider how their skills can benefit society. The awards encourage employees to reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others, learn from colleagues around the world, and ultimately celebrate company-wide successes in solving social problems. Contributions are judged not only on their measurable outcomes, but also on the magnitude of the social challenge they address and the degree of collaboration and synergy among team members.

## Disinfection robot eliminates viruses and protects employees

By equipping autonomous LD Series mobile robots with UV-C lamps, the team, in collaboration with local partners, was able to successfully automate the disinfection process, eliminating the need for employees to perform this task. The solution ensures the safety of high-risk areas such as workplaces, schools and healthcare facilities without putting cleaners at risk or causing damage to facility and equipment.

The trackable robots emit ultraviolet rays that sterilize objects. They can also be programmed to meet individual requirements of specific locations, routes or hours of operation. This can help contain the spread of Covid-19 and other viruses, bacteria and germs, increasing safety and confidence. The disinfection robots have been very successful since their first deployment and are already being used in more than ten countries.

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## Smart solutions to mitigate the impact of the Corona pandemic

Other 2021 award-winning entries include a smart ventilator developed by Omron Spain that measures patients' respiratory volume and pressure in real time, learns from the data and provides the optimal amount of oxygen. Also of note is a team from Omron China that provided vehicle manufacturer BYD with the technical expertise and equipment for 1,800 face mask production lines and 200 composite factories. A project paper from Japan also shows how the company resumed domestic production of body temperature thermometers for the first time in 25 years in response to a sudden surge in thermometer demand when the Corona pandemic broke out.

For Dr. Klaus Kluger, General Manager Central and Eastern Europe at the Group, the disinfection robot project is perfect proof of the value that the competition has not only for the company but also for society in general: "This is an opportunity for our employees worldwide to use their skills, knowledge and experience for the common good and thus drive innovation and product development. This year's initiative has generated numerous contributions that underpin the innovative strength of our employees and help society better cope with the devastating impact of the pandemic. To excel in such an extraordinary field is a truly outstanding achievement."

Yoshihito Yamada, President and CEO, concurs, "In our daily work, each of us has ideas on how to do things better. But it takes courage to look beyond our routine tasks and put those ideas into action. With the competition, we encourage our employees to take that first step, to think outside the box and show passion. This enables us to solve social problems and at the same time increase our corporate value."