

BATTERY-POWERED AUTOVAC WINS INNOVATION AWARD AT 2016 ROMANIAN CLEANING SHOW

Amid several competitors at this year's international Cleaning Show in Romania, Kaivac's battery-powered AutoVac system won the top prize for the most innovative product.

The tradeshow was held March 9–12, 2016, in Bucharest, Romania. Close to 100 European and North American jansan-related manufacturers exhibited at the event.

"Some of these jansan manufacturers are the biggest names in the industry," said Marc Ferguson, Kaivac's International Business Development Manager. "We certainly

had a lot of competition [for this award] at this show."

The battery-powered AutoVac is designed to function like a traditional autoscrubber but at a fraction of the cost.

As the AutoVac is rolled over a floor surface, cleaning solution is dispensed onto the floor; a pad behind the machine agitates the floor, releasing soils, which are then vacuumed up.

According to Ferguson, tests at the University of Massachusetts concluded that the AutoVac system is actually more effective at removing floor soils than a traditional autoscrubber. "And when you figure that the system costs only about one-sixth that of a traditional scrubber, it's pretty clear why this system won this award."

The Cleaning Show is just one of a number of international tradeshow held regularly around the world, added



Ferguson, who attends or exhibits Kaivac products at many of them.

They represent the growth of the industry around the world, he said, "And along with this growth, the industry is gaining far more respect, economic success, and appreciation than ever before."

www.kaivac.com



ETS ESSAY COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED

Fourth year medical student, Sarah Freeston, has scooped the top prize in the 2015 European Tissue Symposium (ETS) Essay Competition on the most hygienic way to dry your hands.

Her winning essay was judged the best by the ETS Scientific Panel, consisting of six professors and microbiologists from across Europe. She received her cash prize of €1,500 at the Faculty Club in the University of Leuven in Belgium last month, followed by a lunch with the Scientific Panel.

"Sarah did a wonderful job in emphasising the importance of proper hand washing and drying from the perspective of the bacteria," explained Chairman of the Scientific Panel, Professor Marc Van Ranst. "Her very well-written essay will be a useful tool in reaching out to a younger audience to convince them that hand drying using single-use towels is the preferred way to dry your hands as the final step in the handwashing process."

Sarah, who is studying medicine at University College London, saw the competition after ETS reached out to universities to encourage students to enter.

Speaking on her victory, Sarah said: "The title of the essay interested me as it was quite different from the more academic and scientific competitions. The more light-hearted tone appealed and I decided to write the piece from a different perspective in order to engage children who would be put off by a more adult tone. I wrote the essay over the Christmas holidays, so I think I was also inspired by animated films!" In light of that inspiration, Sarah created the germ character Gerry to explain the life

of germs in the washroom and the importance of proper hand drying with single-use towels.

ETS has undertaken extensive research into the most hygienic way to dry hands. Studies with both the Universities of Leeds and Westminster have been peer-reviewed and published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection*. A strong proponent of broadening awareness of these results among younger people, ETS launched its first Essay Competition last year, following four years of very successful Cartoon Contests.

"We are very pleased with the freshness and quality of this winning essay," said Roberto Berardi, Chairman of the ETS. "It is important to convey the facts to the younger generation and to demonstrate that the single use paper towel is in fact state-of-the-art in terms of hand hygiene and reducing air contamination in washrooms. The future is quite literally, in their (hopefully well washed and dried) hands."

Read Sarah's winning essay [here](#).

www.europeantissue.com