

PRESS RELEASE

Tillery Valley prize for top Cranfield food masters grad

23 June 2013

A Food Chain Systems student from Cranfield University received a £250 award and a personal congratulation from Tillery Valley, Sodexo's prepared foods business, at her graduation ceremony on 6 June.

John Heap from the South Wales food firm presented a cheque to Maite Iriondo after she was selected as the successful recipient of the Tillery Valley sponsored Exceptional Student Prize for the MSc in Food Chain Systems.

Tillery Valley's advanced production plant in Abertillery produces up to one million meals a week for the UK public sector, delivering daily to schools, nurseries, hospitals and local authority establishments. The organisation is continually expanding its range and provides a 'meals on wheels' service, a bespoke offer for the care home sector and tailored products for large catering events.

Cranfield University has an international reputation for expertise in addressing pre and post harvest food chain issues. This is the second year the Tillery Valley award of excellence has been presented – it is given to the student who receives the highest dissertation mark on the Food Chains Systems programme.

Maite, who will use the money towards furthering her studies in Sweden, said: "It is an honour to receive this award from Tillery Valley. It really is a great motivation for your work to be recognised and appreciated in this manner. I would like to sincerely thank Tillery Valley for this kind gesture".

John Heap, catering consultant at Tillery Valley, said: “We are delighted to be able to show our support for academic courses and institutions across the UK and it is particularly gratifying to meet the recipient of these awards and offer personal words of support and sincere congratulations. Maite has obviously worked extremely hard to achieve this accolade and we wish her all the best for her future career.”

Ends

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About Tillery Valley

Formed in 1984, Tillery Valley, part of the worldwide Sodexo Group, is a national provider of chilled and frozen prepared meals to the healthcare sector, local authorities and education sector.

Based in Abertillery, South Wales, and managed by site director Philip Hall, Tillery Valley is a major employer in the area, providing more than 350 jobs to the local community. Its advanced production plant has the capacity to produce one million meals per week.

64 per cent of Tillery Valley's annual expenditure is invested in businesses in Wales and adjoining regions and collaborative initiatives, such as sustainable local sourcing that help to support both local businesses and the wider community, are top of Tillery Valley's agenda. The company is also proactively helping to reduce the environmental impact of its operations.

Tillery Valley currently serves 89 NHS trusts and 26 local authorities in 180 locations throughout the UK.

Tillery Valley operates to Carbon Trust Standards and was the first food manufacturer in Wales to receive the Carbon Trust Accreditation in 2010.

Other notable awards and accreditations include Gold Food Hygiene Award (2010), Investors in People (2008), ISO 9001:2008 accreditation for the development, manufacture and distribution of chilled and frozen ready meals and the British Retail Consortium (BRC) Global Food Safety Standard Version 5 Grade A accreditation (2009) and ISO14001:2004 environmental management system accreditation

Further information is available at: <http://www.tilleryvalley.com>

About Sodexo

Sodexo in the UK and Ireland

Sodexo employs over 35,000 people, and delivers on-site service solutions to clients at some 2,300 locations in the corporate, healthcare, education, leisure, justice and defence sectors.

With an annual turnover of over £1bn, Sodexo delivers a range of services ranging from catering, cleaning, reception to asset management, security, laboratory and grounds maintenance services, enabling clients to focus on their core business.

Sodexo Motivation Solutions in the UK provides benefit and reward services such as SayShopping vouchers; public benefits; and employee benefits such as childcare vouchers and engagement surveys.

Sodexo Group

Founded in 1966 by Pierre Bellon, Sodexo is the global leader in services that improve Quality of Life, an essential factor in individual and organisational performance.

Operating in 80 countries, Sodexo serves 75 million consumers each day through its unique combination of On-site Services, Benefits and Rewards Services and Personal and Home Services. Through its more than 100 services, Sodexo provides clients an integrated offering developed over more than 45 years of experience: from reception, safety, maintenance and cleaning, to foodservices and facilities and equipment management; from Meal Pass, Gift Pass and Mobility Pass benefits for employees to in-home assistance and concierge services.

Sodexo's success and performance are founded on its independence, its sustainable business model and its ability to continuously develop and engage its 420,000 employees throughout the world.

Key Figures (as of August 31, 2012)

Sodexo in the world

18.2 billion euro consolidated revenue

420 000 employees

20th largest employer worldwide

80 countries

34,300 sites

75 million consumers served daily

9.5 billion euro market capitalisation (*as of November 7 2012*)