



## **Zimbabwe's SECURICO Wins \$100,000 Grand Prize in 2011 AFRICA AWARDS For Entrepreneurship**

**Three woman-owned businesses out of seven winning companies represented  
from 3,300 entries competing for US \$400,000 in Prizes**

**Nairobi, December 8, 2011** – Legatum, a private international investment group and Omidyar Network, a philanthropic investment firm, today announced that SECURICO has won the US \$100,000 grand prize of the 2011 Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship ([www.AfricaAwards.com](http://www.AfricaAwards.com)). Based in Harare, Zimbabwe, SECURICO provides guarding services and electronic security solutions, and is the first security company in Zimbabwe to be ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) certified. SECURICO has more than 3,400 employees, 900 of which are women, making it the largest employer of women in the private sector. The company exemplifies the vital role played by entrepreneurs in creating economic growth, prosperity, and realising opportunity in Africa.

“It is such an honor for me to be recognized by the Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship and included in such a talented, dynamic group of entrepreneurs” said Divine Ndhlukula, Founder and Managing Director of SECURICO. “I hope that my story of creating SECURICO, and those of my fellow finalists, will help to inspire other African entrepreneurs to seek opportunity, embrace risk, and above all, believe in themselves.”

A record 3,300 companies from 48 African countries submitted entries to compete for the Grand Prize of US \$100,000, and six additional prizes of US \$50,000 each, including the new Coca-Cola Award for an Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur, granted to Victoria Seeds, an agribusiness based in Kampala, Uganda. The Africa Awards for Entrepreneurship recognises and rewards business leaders who embody the entrepreneurial spirit and qualities required to succeed in business and who are the inspirational role models for the next generation of African entrepreneurs.

Five further finalists were recognized and each awarded a prize of US \$50,000:

- **Chocolate City Group**, Abuja, Nigeria
- **Expand Technology**, Phoenix, Mauritius
- **Pepperoni Foods**, Port Harcourt, Nigeria
- **Unique Solutions**, Serrekunda, The Gambia
- **soleRebels**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Philip Vassiliou, Managing Director of Legatum, commented, “Legatum firmly believes that entrepreneurship is the most effective mechanism for distributing scarce resources around an economy. Entrepreneurs have the ability to see an opportunity and build a business around it, and the profit these businesses generate is evidence that needs are being met in the optimal way.” He added “We are pleased to recognise all of our 2011 Award finalists for the vital contributions they have made in promoting prosperity across the continent.”



The ten finalists underscore the diversity of entrepreneurs in the competition, representing eight countries including Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The top ten, which includes three woman-owned businesses, work in a range of industries, from software to entertainment to agribusiness.

"The winners of the 2011 Africa Awards represent a diversity of backgrounds, industries, and geographies, but they also share a common determination in building and scaling a successful company," said Matt Bannick, Managing Partner of Omidyar Network. "We congratulate each of the winners, and welcome them to the Awards' growing network of business leaders who are fostering innovation, job creation, and positive social impact from within Africa."

To determine the winners, finalists gathered in Nairobi to present to a prominent jury of African business leaders and investors. The panel was chaired by Malik Fal, Managing Director of Endeavor. The jury also included some of Africa's most prominent entrepreneurs and investors, including Kamal Budhabhatti, CEO of Craft Silicon and Grand Prize Winner of the 2010 Africa Awards; James Manyika, Director of the McKinsey Global Institute; Ayisi Makatiani, the CEO of Fanisi Capital; and Tokunboh Ishmael, co-founder and Managing Director of Alitheia Capital. The winners were evaluated on profitability; return on investment and growth; long-term business strategy; leadership, culture and values; investment in employees; innovation to address market needs; and contribution to the community.

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#### **ABOUT LEGATUM**

Legatum is a private investment group with a twenty-five year heritage of generating and allocating capital and ideas that can help people to lead more prosperous lives, and which applies its investor's expertise to a long standing involvement in the sustainable development of communities around the globe. For more information, please visit Legatum's website at [www.legatum.com](http://www.legatum.com)

#### **ABOUT OMIDYAR NETWORK**

Omidyar Network is a philanthropic investment firm dedicated to harnessing the power of markets to create opportunity for people to improve their lives. Established in 2004 by eBay founder Pierre Omidyar and his wife Pam, the organization invests in and helps scale innovative organizations to catalyze economic and social change. To date, Omidyar Network has committed more than \$450 million to for-profit companies and non-profit organizations that foster economic advancement and encourage individual participation across multiple investment areas, including microfinance, property rights, consumer internet, mobile and government transparency. To learn more, visit [www.omidyar.com](http://www.omidyar.com)