

Tough competition among Europe's best young painters.

## ONLY THE CREAM MAKE IT TO THE FINAL OF THE R-M INTERNATIONAL BEST PAINTER COMPETITION!

The new generation of compliant paint technology, together with leading edge paint application techniques combine to take Europe's bodyshops into the future, setting new standards in the industry. However, successful bodyshops need more than just technology to progress. Knowledge and skills are key factors and R-M's International Best Painter Competition has come to be recognised as the pinnacle of emerging talent in the automotive refinish industry.

2007 marks the sixth anniversary of this international competition and in order to reach the international final, R-M has to find the best painters under the age of 25 in



Steve Hazard presents Craig Cannon with the national winner's certificate



Craig Cannon and PK 2000, a powerful combination!

each country via the national finals. We are pleased to

announce that Craig Cannon of Motor Bodies, Widnes won the UK national final and will be representing his country at the international final to be held at the R-M global Refinish Competence Centre in Clermont, France from the 26th to the 28th September 2007.

In the preliminary stages of the competition, young painters from up and down the country had to complete a test questionnaire covering a wide range of subjects from the technical aspects of automotive refinishing through to detailed R-M product knowledge. The resulting four

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Colin Drain and Alan Cole judging the final finish together with DeVilbiss's Nick Scorey taking a much closer look!

national finalists then put their skills to the test at the Thatcham Training Centre and each of the four finalists was carefully monitored by acknowledged industry experts throughout the day.

The national final put each young painter to the test under real workshop conditions, including preparation of the Mini bonnet, etch priming, priming, colour mixing and final finishing using Onyx HD

waterborne basecoat and Starlux CP compliant clearcoat.

"The care and attention during each of the stages, including drying times and efficient working methods are vital criteria in the evaluation of each contestant" explains R-M Operations Manager, Colin Drain and he was joined in the judging by R-M's Alan Cole and the acknowledged industry expert Nick Scorey from ITW DeVilbiss.



Matthew Petterson from Benfield Motors, Newcastle, a worthy finalist.



Adam Spencer, from CT Motors Edmonton was another superb painter.

The four finalists demonstrated excellent levels of skills, as well as considerable product and process knowledge, so as you can imagine, the competition was really close throughout. By the end of a hectic day, Craig Cannon proved to be a worthy winner and will pit his skills against finalists from 14 European Countries, including Germany, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Poland, Slovenia Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus and Switzerland.

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Mark Litton from Thorne Coachworks, Exmouth with his finalist's certificate.

However, the other three finalists didn't go away empty handed. Matthew Patterson from Benfield Motors, Newcastle, Adam Spencer from CT Motors, Edmonton and Mark Litton from Thorne Coachworks, Exmouth were presented with some excellent prizes from R-M as well as key sponsor ITW DeVilbiss.

Everybody at R-M would like to extend their thanks to all the sponsors who support the competition, and to the staff at Thatcham for their assistance on the day.

Congratulations to all the participants in making this one of the closest fought finals to date, and we wish Craig the very best of luck for the international final in September.



The superb facilities at Thatcham enabled the judges to monitor the performance of all the painters, simultaneously.

**FEEDBACK**

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