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Hamilton innovator Matthew Sheridan wins \$25,000 Manning Award for hand-held colour sensor

Calgary, AB (October 1, 2015) -- Matthew Sheridan, founder of Hamilton-based startup Nix Sensor Ltd., has won the 2015 Ernest C. Manning Foundation Award of Distinction for creating and successfully commercializing the Nix Colour Sensor. The small ping pong ball-sized device can accurately measure the colour of any object instantly -- making colour management easier and more cost-effective across a range of industries, including food production, textiles, cosmetics, commercial paints and graphic design.

The David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction is one of several prizes the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation gives annually to talented Canadian innovators who are improving the lives of Canadians and others worldwide through their commercialized innovations. Mr. Sheridan will receive his \$25K prize at the Foundation's 34th Innovation Awards Gala in Saskatoon on October 2, 2015.

"The Foundation is helping to build a culture of innovation by recognizing Canadian innovators," says President Jennifer Diakiw. "Our awards reward innovators for the value they are adding to our provincial and national economies by creating jobs and wealth, and positioning our country as a global competitor. We consider them Canada's most valuable resource."

Mr. Sheridan, a McMaster University engineering graduate, first came up with the idea for Nix in 2012 after watching friends in the interior design industry hauling around heavy, expensive paint decks. He was also inspired by another colleague who was trying to create custom-matched makeup for people with severe burns and skin disorders.

Mr. Sheridan worked on early prototypes with support from the Hamilton-based Innovation Factory and funding from a Kickstarter campaign that raised \$70,000. The result was the world's first hand-held colour sensor, designed to be a smartphone accessory. Using Bluetooth low energy technology, it can scan surfaces to quickly get a color reading, save colours for future reference or sharing, test color quality by comparing scanned colors to known values, and convert between any colour system in the world.

"Traditional methods of color measurement, such as paint chips and fan decks, are incredibly inaccurate due to varying light conditions and human error. Every colour measurement solution in the consumer market today is difficult to transport, inaccurate, and costs thousands of dollars. Nix is smaller, more economical and user-friendly," says Mr. Sheridan.

To date, Nix Sensor Ltd. has sold over 1,000 units to color professionals in 31 countries. Sheridan says receiving the Manning Award for Nix not only validates his work but represents a win for the entire community which supported its development. "We've been offered opportunities to move to California and other places but we are energized and inspired by the incredible amount of talent in Hamilton, and organizations like Innovation Factory. Without them, we wouldn't be here today. We've spent a lot of time figuring out a viable way to manufacture Nix in Hamilton. We are proud to say that we are producing the highest quality product right here," says Mr. Sheridan.

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation was established in 1980 when Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell collaborated with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning to build a foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then, the Foundation has built a national network of



*3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 255 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure. **For more information, including the full list of 2015 Innovation Award winners, visit: www.manningawards.ca.***

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