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Gilray Densham of Toronto, ON is the winner of the \$25,000 Manning Award for his BlackTrax by Cast Systems intelligent lighting solution

Toronto, ON (October 19, 2016) – Gilray Densham of Toronto, ON has won the 2016 Ernest C. Manning Foundation David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction for BlackTrax by Cast Systems - an intelligent lighting solution that tracks in real-time and with six degrees of freedom, including 3D and rotation, sending this information to controllers on robotic equipment.

The David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction is one of four 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. Gilray Densham will receive his \$25,000 prize at the Foundation's 35th Innovation Awards Dinner in Halifax on October 20, 2016.

"The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is helping build a culture of innovation by encouraging and rewarding outstanding Canadian innovators," said Foundation President Jennifer Diakiw. "Our Awards celebrate innovators for the value they add 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."

Gilray Densham's creativity and ingenuity allows artists to bring their vision to life on stage. During his 20 years as a lighting assistant with CBC, he learned the intricacies of lighting design and installation and began developing technologies that would improve what lighting made possible on stage. BlackTrax by Cast system, one of his latest inventions, combines newly developed and existing technologies into an intelligent lighting solution.

BlackTrax tracks in real-time and with six degrees of freedom, including 3D and rotation, sending this information to controllers on robotic equipment. This automates and creates a natural relationship between humans, objects and technologies on stage.

Mr. Densham is one of the founders of Cast, an innovative lighting design company, who has developed an array of leading-edge technologies designed to enhance artists' performances in the entertainment and production industry. BlackTrax is one of the company's leading products and has won myriad awards for its ability to move with performers, improve technical consistency and reduce performance errors.

There are currently 48 different systems in use around the world, including in Cirque du Soleil productions, the Marvel Universe Live Show, Disney on Ice, and the Ringling Brothers Circus. BlackTrax was also used in the most recent Carrie Underwood concert tour and is part of the Harry Potter production in London's West End.

For Mr. Densham, awards such as this demonstrates to people around the world that Canada can deliver innovation. "Canadians do amazing things and these awards help highlight that."

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the 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 265 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 2016 Innovation Award winners, visit: www.manningawards.ca.