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**WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN THE 1ST PEN-CP INNOVATION PRIZE**

Prize winners are innovators in cargo scanner image analysis, subatomic particle scanning and smart container technology

**TIRANA, Albania** - The Pan-European Network of Customs Practitioners (PEN-CP) announces the winners of its first PEN-CP Innovation Prize (PIP-2022/23), a contest that celebrates creative, paradigm-shift ideas and solutions in customs. After a tight competition among 8 contestants, of which some have previously benefited from EU security research funding, decided by a vote among participants in the PEN-CP Annual Event in Tirana, Albania, 3 winners were selected.

First Prize was awarded to **INTA** [www.inta.lt], for a service involving "advanced cargo scanner image analysis and threat object recognition training".

Second Prize was won by **GScan** [www.gscan.eu], for their "digital scanning technology that uses data provided by muons and other subatomic particles".

Third Prize went to **Aeler** [www.aeler.com], for "smart containers with real-time track-and-trace and cargo monitoring, and software that identifies normal and atypical cargo behavior".

PEN-CP [www.pen-cp.net], a Customs innovation-boosting network funded by the EU under the Horizon 2020 program, fosters new innovative ideas and strengthens ties among innovation-oriented customs officers throughout Europe, as well as globally. The project focuses on innovations in data and risk management, detection technologies and laboratory equipment, and employs a range of innovation and knowledge instruments, including technology grants, challenge competitions, innovation awards and prizes, annual studies and expert reports.

Summaries of all 8 PIP-2022/23 submissions will be published later at the PEN-CP website. Regarding practical PIP-2022/23 arrangements, PEN-CP worked in close cooperation with the European Start-up Network [www.europeanstartupnetwork.eu].

***Media contact:***
Valentina Scioneri, CBRA Switzerland
valentina.scioneri@cross-border.org
Tel & Whatsapp: +39 334 159 8179