

Igor Kokarev

This recipient is rather exceptional, because awards of this calibre are usually made to persons of mature years, perhaps after a lifetime of service. However, this recipient's contributions to Audio Visual is so important, it has not just helped the traditional Audio Visual worker change from making analogue slide tape sequences to those made digitally, but has also encouraged and enabled a wave of newcomers into the art of making sequences. It is almost certain that the majority of sequences shown at this international festival have been made possible because of the efforts of this person.

The recipient of this award was born in November 1980, in Kirov, a Russian city situated just west of the Ural Mountains, some 900 kilometres east of Moscow, he studied the usual academic subjects at school – physics, music, history, biology, literature etc – but in particular computer programming and mathematics. His best friend, Aleksey Elin, was also interested in computer programming and on leaving school they decided to form a new company to produce computer software. Their first program was a game called 'Computerman', which was published as a free product in 1998. They then went on to produce a file manager for Windows called Win Navigator, and the company was christened WNSoft after the name of this program. The version of Explorer that came with the Windows 98 operating system was very basic and Win Navigator allowed the user to view images and play audio files from within the same window.

Seeing the potential of the mixture of images and audio, WNSoft started work on a new program that would allow users to combine pictures and music into a single executable file and on 2nd July 1999 launched the very first version of PicturesToExe. This was followed in November 2000 with the introduction of a user forum that allowed members to suggest improvements and features for future versions of the program. The Forum now has 6253 members and many of the developments that PTE has undergone over the last ten years have been as a result of suggestions made by the people who actually use the program. It is more than gratifying to realise that the recipient has always ensured that his contribution has been dynamic in accordance with Audio Visual workers requirements.

Since the first version of the programme, features such as audio synchronisation, smooth image dissolves, timeline based workflow, object layers, animation, DVD and video output and recently audio blending and Mac output have been added to the program. PicturesToExe has become the de facto choice for AV enthusiasts in the UK and its simple interface and ease of use has helped long-standing AV makers move from the old analogue system to the current digital platform.

The Dobson Henry Medal is awarded to Igor Kokarev.