

S4 takes top award for exporters

THE top exporters of the region were announced by Exporters Eastern Cape at a glittering gala awards event on Friday night at The Sun Boardwalk.

The 2018 Exporter of the Year Awards bring together captains of industry who export from the Eastern Cape, to celebrate their achievements of the past year and the critical role exporters play in the province's economy.

A highlight of the evening was the prestigious Overall Exporter of the Year, which is selected each year from the competition's seven category winners.

Port Elizabeth company S4 Integration, which started exporting in 2008, was announced the Overall Exporter of the Year.

S4, which exports to Germany, Belgium and China, was recognised for its massive growth in turnover and profitability in excess of 40% over the past year.

Elated S4 Integration new business development manager Ettienne Gerwel said after-



wards the company was an unsung Port Elizabeth success story, established in 1994.

"About 80% of the staff who started the company, are still with the company today.

"It speaks about the sustained growth, staff commitment and type of leadership we have at S4," Gerwel said.

In April this year, S4 Integration moved its head office and manufacturing facility to Fairview (from Sidwell) and has significantly grown its software development department due to demand from the company's existing international clients.

During the year, it also started mechanical design and manufacturing for international clients.

Other companies recognised included:

- SJM Flex Environmental Practice Award: a) merit award: The Waste Trade Company; b) winner: Tavor Motor Group;
- SJM Flex Environmental Award: a) first merit award:



TOP HONOURS: Exporters Eastern Cape chair Quintin Levey, left, with S4 Integration's Ettienne Gerwel and Transnet executive Moshe Motlohi at the Exporters Eastern Cape gala evening Picture: BRIAN WITBOOI

Eberspacher SA; b) second merit award: SMA Engineering SA; c) winner: VW Group SA;

- IDC Job Creation Award: a) merit award: S4 Integration; b) winner: Swartkops Terminal;
- Best Provider of Services to Exporters: a) first merit award: Coega Development Corporation; b) second merit award: Morgan Cargo; c) winner: Swartkops Terminal;

- Best Exporter: small business: winner: S4 Integration;
- Best Exporter: medium enterprise: merit award: Sovereign Foods;
- Best Exporter, corporate: a) merit award: Eberspacher SA; b) winner: SMA Engineering SA;
- Best Exporter, OEM: a) merit award: VW Group SA; b) winner: Ford Motor Company SA