



Final of the Best Painter Contest

R-M names the Best Painter winner for France



On December 4th 2019, the jury of the 14th edition of the R-M Best Painter Contest named the national winner for France. Eight finalists went head to head after they were selected from the 65 applicants from all regions of France. Paint manufacturer BASF, as well as distributors, partner equipment manufacturers, painters who had reached the final and their bosses... the whole sector was in attendance to wrap up the 2019 contest.

This year's central theme: the bodyshop of the future, encompassing technological, digital and environmental innovations. Due consideration of environmental impact, which is increasingly unavoidable, adds a new dimension for the auto refinish trade. It represents an additional aspect for young professionals who will be able to implement wider use of eco-repairs and contribute to conserving the planet.

“Beyond representing the bodyshop of the future and everything that it represents, the Best Painter Contest is the tangible expression of R-M's commitment to training and employing young people. We care about recognising talented young painters, helping them to evolve and promoting a trade that is struggling with recruitment right across France¹. The standard of the entrants in 2019 was particularly high and rewards our efforts,” commented Erwan Baudimant, Regional Business Manager for BASF

¹[According to statistics from France's Pôle Emploi unemployment agency, bodywork technician roles are the hardest to fill in France](#)



Sylvain Crellier, R-M Best Painter, France

Representing the Greater Eastern region of France, Sylvain was named R-M Best Painter in France by the trainers, distributors and partners of the brand. This is his first time participating in the contest, and the passionate 28-year old painter hopes to be selected for the international edition, scheduled for 2020.



“The R-M Best Painter contest is a very rewarding experience, both personally and professionally. It enables us [entrants] to promote our profession by highlighting its technical, technological and innovation dimensions. The approach taken by R-M is very important in challenging preconceptions, especially among young people. I’m proud to be standing on top of the podium, and now there’s only one objective on my

mind: to carry French know-how as far as I can during the international edition of the competition. I’ll give it my all!”

Find out more: [Article in Est Républicain](#)

“Going up against the finalists from the other 15 competing countries from around the world, the international final is a challenge for all of us. Our team of trainers will definitely be backing their protégé as they prepare for victory! We’ll see you in September 2020 in Clermont de l’Oise where Sylvain will be competing on home turf at the R-M brand’s global industrial site,” commented Thierry Leclerc, Head of R-M’s Western Europe Technical Department.

A podium full of enthusiasts



**2nd place: Andy Bottasso, 31 years old
Finalist in the PACA region**

For the Bottassos, auto refinishing is a family affair: Andy has been working in his father’s business for over 10 years, and he is also currently training his mother, a former pharmacist who recently acquired her CAP diploma. What does he like most about his job? Sanding, a critical step in the quality of the end result.



3rd place: Tony Martins, 28 years old

Finalist in the Île-de-France region

Encouraged to enter by his boss, Tony originally declined the offer to participate in the contest. Nevertheless, the seed had been sown... Without telling anyone, Tony took a day's leave to attend the pre-selections and he would eventually win the challenge thrown down by his boss by taking his place on the podium.

Tony works at BRS France, a niche business which dispatches teams to car manufacturers and vehicle fleet companies that want to subcontract auto repair and refinishing work at their place of business.

An edition showcasing environmental efficiency

R-M's industrial site in Clermont-de-l'Oise, France was the venue where the 8 finalists chosen from 65 applicants took part in head to head practical tests: preparation and priming of a car bonnet; drying ; colorimetric research and weighing; colour wheel and interpreting spectral curves; application, finishing and stoving; identification of products and consumables; colour matching by mixing.

This year, candidates were judged on their ability to reproduce a colour, the quality of their preparation and application, and the speed of execution, as well as their economical usage of products and waste reduction.

Find out more: [Final press pack](#)

When the competition launched, 65 candidates from every region in France registered to represent the role of bodywork technician. This level of engagement clearly signals the awareness and mobilisation among young people and their bosses to promote their business and make it more appealing given the skill shortages that threaten the sustainability of their industry.

Find out more:

[Press Room](#)

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Press Release
R-M Automotive Refinish Paints
December 2019

Perfection
made simple



A brand of BASF – We create chemistry



R-M Automotive Refinish: a major part of the BASF France Coatings Division.

Through its R-M brand, BASF sells a comprehensive range of paints for automotive refinishing, with an emphasis on waterborne paints and high-density pigment paints, two eco-friendly technologies. Their use means that R-M fully complies with the legal requirements worldwide regarding solvent reductions, without compromising on the same qualities of traditional paints, such as appearance and resistance. R-M offers a wide variety of services to support its customers in their business. R-M is approved by most leading car manufacturers for refinishing work and is the preferred choice of the most prestigious car companies for its colour expertise.

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