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WITCO to spend \$40,000 on Rudolph Charles Competition

THE RUDOLPH Charles Pan Innovation Awards Competition and Award Workshops sponsored by the West Indian Tobacco Company Ltd (WITCO) will take place on December 7 and 8 at Queen's Hall.

The competition was last held in 1986. For the first time this year it includes workshops, one for

tuners with the title Sound Quality/Range, and the other for captains and managers of bands on marketing. The plans for this year's competition were announced at a news conference at the Trinidad Hilton by WITCO PRO Beverley Telemaque and committee members Val Rogers, Pat Bishop, Richard McDavid, and Roy Boyke.

Responding to questions Telemaque said the awards and the workshop would cost WITCO some \$40,000 and the company was always aware of very tangible returns from its sponsorship of WITCO Desperadoes. The competition for innovators will take place during the morning session on the first day of the workshops. The first prize is \$5,000 and a challenge trophy, second prize \$3,000, third prize \$2,000. Entries will be given 25 points each for ingenuity, cost effectiveness, relevance to the steel-band movement and ease of application.

The competition has been divided into two categories, instrumental and accessory. Nineteen entries have been received. Among the unique entries are a pan balancer, a portable pan tuning stand, and a mobile bandstand. Judges for the competition are Richard McDavid, Merle Albino de Couteau, George Scott, Ray Holman and Anthony Williams.

The Rudolph Charles Pan Innovation Award seeks to encourage innovation and invention among steel-band technicians. In commemorating the work of Rudolph Charles, Telemaque said, in the biennial Rudolph Charles Pan Innovation Award, WITCO was attempting to encourage all those who make technical improvements to all aspects of steel musical instruments and their management.