For Immediate Release

FOCAL RESEARCH TAKES HOME GLOBAL HONOUR FOR REAL-TIME GAMBLING RISK DETECTION SYSTEM

Halifax, NS: November 19th, 2026 – Focal Research today announced that **Focal Prevent**, its real-time risk detection system, has won Compliance Innovator of The Year at the 10th Annual Vixio 'Decade of Diamonds' Global Regulatory Awards, the world's leading celebration of excellence in compliance and responsible gambling.

Focal Prevent is a continuous intelligence system that uses live data streams to identify emerging signs of risk. It prioritizes customers for personal support, delivers automated messaging when selected, and encourages safer gambling activity in real time. By shifting safer gambling operations toward active prevention for all customers, Prevent reduces risk for both customers and businesses.

The Vixio Global Regulatory Awards are open to operators, suppliers, and service providers worldwide, and every nomination is reviewed by an independent panel of industry experts. This year's shortlist featured 175 finalists from more than 100 organizations across 20 categories, which Vixio's Executive Chair and CEO described as "our most competitive year yet." Winning a Global Regulatory Award, places Focal Prevent among the best in the global gambling industry and is independent validation of Focal's prevention-first approach to player protection.

Tracy Schrans, President and CEO of Focal Research, said:

"Winning a Vixio Global Regulatory Award is a defining moment for Focal. Being recognized by an independent panel of industry experts confirms that a shift towards active prevention is where the industry is heading. Co-Founder, Dr. Tony Schellinck and I have been involved in gambling research for over 30 years, and to see Focal Prevent honoured on a global stage is deeply meaningful for us both. Thank you to our team, our clients, and the judges, and congratulations to everyone nominated in this category. Together, we are helping ensure that customers and the broader community are better protected while empowering gambling operators to prevent harm, foster player wellbeing, and promote long-term sustainability."

Focal was also a finalist in other categories at this year's ceremony: RegTech Provider of the

Year, and Responsible Gambling Service or Solution Provider of the Year. Focal has been nominated for a Vixio Award every year since 2022, and this win recognizes that sustained commitment to innovation in safer gambling.

The ceremony was held on November 18th at the De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms in London, England, and marks the tenth anniversary of the awards.

About the Vixio Global Regulatory Awards:
Launched in 2017, the GRAs have grown into the world's leading celebration of the individuals, teams, and organizations operating in global regulated industries. Each year, the awards honour those who set new standards in compliance and responsible gambling. Every nomination is rigorously reviewed by an independent panel of esteemed industry experts, ensuring that being shortlisted is a true mark of excellence, integrity, and dedication. The 2026 ceremony marks a milestone year, with Vixio celebrating a decade of recognizing outstanding achievement.

About Focal Research:
Focal Research is an independent safer gambling research and technology company focused on gambling risk detection and player support, and the developer of ALeRT Bettor Protection and Focal Prevent. Building on 30 years of applied research, Focal evaluates real-world gambling behaviour and safer gambling impacts to provide evidence-based insights for policy and practice globally.

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