Dear Organizing Committee, Dear CaCo,

I am extremely proud to be able to speak to you here today. Before I will tell you about the organizing committee, please let me thank a few others involved.

First of all, the Case Society. Thank you for your continuous support. Your knowledge and experience has significantly helped to create this case competition, even after we switched to this online format. By doing so, you have created a great precedent for a closer collaboration next year in the RSM STAR Case Club. Saleh, Chloe, Vincent, Artus and Nathan, thank you!

Next to that, I would like to thank Linda de Vries and Otto Koppius for their support to both the RSM STAR Case Society as well as the Case Competition. They are the constant factor throughout the years, and the reason that we are able to organise this competition.

Then moving on to the organizing committee. Since May 2019, you have been working hard to organise a physical RSM STAR Case Competition. Unfortunately, due to reasons known, we had to cancel the event. I have a great deal of respect for the way in which you as a committee coped with the situation. As soon as we cancelled the competition, you started working on the online format. And within a month after the decision, you pulled it off. For the first time in RSM and STAR’s history, you managed to organise an online case competition. By doing so, you demonstrated resilience, flexibility and creativity. Then moving on to you as individuals:

**Lisa**

The RSM STAR Case Competition chairman and clearly the leader of the group. Kind but strict. To do’s had to be finished on time, and for everything you had a system that worked. When one of your fellow committee members had an issue, they always turned to you. You demonstrated decisiveness but above all great leadership in challenging times. Your stakeholders loved the way you did your work. I am pretty confident that both Linda de Vries, director of RSM’s International Office and I agree when I say that you did an excellent job, without ever taking credits for it, just an excellent job.

**Fabio**

Maatje. Our marketing and social manager. You are not a morning person. Whenever we had a Teams meeting before let’s say 11, you would still be lying in bed. Despite…, you got your work done. As commissioner of events, you closed deals with various great locations throughout Rotterdam. However, also after you decided to cancel the event and switch to this online format, you remained the fun and positive person you always are, often lifting the committee’s spirits. I am confident that, besides working hard to do your job, you have had a significant contribution to the group bonding processes. You are an excellent marketing manager, but above all, a great person.

**Mathijs**

Our treasurer and second social manager. In charge of managing the budget. In fierce discussions, you would generally keep silent, knowing that at some point they would all be looking at you to find out whether it fits the budget. Because in the end,… it is all about the money. Within no time after cancelling the physical competition you had prepared a contingency budget, detailing the costs required to make the online format work. With the financial picture in mind, you were able to convince all stakeholders. Great job, well done!

**Simone**

The program manager. Your presence never goes unnoticed. From time to time, you had the tendency to jump from one subject to the other in the middle of a discussion. At the same time, you always managed to do your job, on time. The output you create is, sometimes in contrast to your contributions in the meetings, extremely structured and detailed. Great characteristics for a program. You always go the extra mile, aspiring to get the most out of it. Amazing job, thank you!

**Katinka**

Katinka, the committee’s commercial. Strangely enough, we ended up talking about the Case Competition at multiple parties, which demonstrated your commitment. You were always willing to help others, and have a clear goal in mind. The pressure to find case partners, combined with various other commitments, sometimes made you feel stressed. But I saw you grow and develop in your position, and your stakeholder management skills. You did a great job in finding case partners and jury members, as well as, supporting your fellow committee members. Well done!

**Pim**

Our second commercial, and unofficial vice chairman. Pim, Pim, Pim you definitely have the worst sense of humor I have ever seen and experienced. At the same time, however, you are extremely ambitious, persuasive and have a great eye for detail and design. I have seen you in better and worse times. Just a few weeks ago you joined a morning meeting after having slept for three hours since you spend the whole night designing the 6 hour case. For you, it is always the result that counts. Thank you for being part of this committee and doing everything you can to make it work.

I would like to conclude my speech with the following remark:

Normally the past few weeks would have been characterized by a period of fulltime office work. A period to which I was very much looking forward to, finally being able to be part of these intense weeks. Being part of your Whatsapp group, however, also gave me an insight into how you behaved as a group. Next to the hard work and long hours you put into this project, there was always room for jokes and informal chit chats. Having seen this, you did not only grew professionally but also became friends. Be proud on what you have achieved during the past year, but more importantly, cherish your friendship.

This achievement can’t go unnoticed, which is why I or PostNL will deliver presents to your houses during the coming week.