



## **The Focus-Abengoa Foundation Announces the Third Edition of the Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez International Research Award**

- **The Award is aimed at fostering scientific study and research geared towards contextualizing the paintings of Velázquez.**
- **All entries must be submitted on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.**

Seville, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2011.- The Focus-Abengoa Foundation wishes to announce the Third Edition of the Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez International Research Award. The purpose of this award is to recognize innovative projects and scientific studies that may contribute towards enriching the knowledge of Velázquez and the Seville of his time.

To that effect, and in recognition and perpetuation of the efforts of Arts Historian, Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez, an exemplary researcher and professor, who devoted special attention to research into Spanish and Italian Paintings and to the study of the works of Velázquez, the projects submitted for the award shall encompass literary, patrimonial and cultural perspectives of Modern Age Spain (*circa* 1500-1800).

The award, endowed with prize money of €24,000, also pays homage to the figure of Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez. His passionate and selfless collaboration with the Focus-Abengoa Foundation has made it possible for the numerous exhibitions of said Foundation, including *Three Centuries of Seville Paintings*, *Spanish Paintings Recovered by Private Collectors* or *From Herrera to Velázquez*, to be acknowledged with applause from both critics and visitors. Also, until his death in 2010, the work of Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez as Arts Consultant for the Focus-Abengoa Foundation was decisive in acquiring Velázquez's painting, *Santa Rufina* and, consequently, the birth of the *Diego Velázquez Research Centre*.

Focus-Abengoa Foundation institutes the award as an attempt to encourage the entire scientific community to embark on exhaustive research into the historic and artistic context surrounding the works of the brilliant Velázquez. In addition to taking a closer look at the works of the Seville painter, projects for submission must significantly contribute to the areas of Arts, History, Culture, Literature and Aesthetics of the Modern Age.

The winner of last year's edition was Luis Méndez Rodríguez, for his work *Sevilla 1533. La aventura de Jerónimo Köler*.

All works must be sent by certified mail with acknowledgement of receipt or must be hand-delivered at the Focus-Abengoa Foundation address: Hospital de los Venerables, Plaza de los Venerables, 8 (41004 –Sevilla–). The envelop must bear the following: *III Alfonso E. Pérez Sánchez International Award*.



The originals of the works must be submitted on paper, in Spanish, Italian, French, English or German, on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

See <http://focus.abengoa.es/> for the complete conditions of entry

### **Focus-Abengoa Foundation**

The Focus-Abengoa Foundation was created in 1982 as a result of the cultural initiative which Abengoa started in 1972 with the edition of the works entitled *Temas Sevillanos* and *Iconografía de Sevilla*. Around that same time it started compiling a database of documents, books and recordings on the Kingdom of Seville and by authors from that area. Such cultural initiative made Abengoa executives realize the importance of moving beyond their essential functions in the world of technology unto an activity that benefits society, thus giving rise to the Fundación Fondo de Cultura de Sevilla (Seville Cultural Fund Foundation). Since 2007, as Focus-Abengoa acquired Velázquez's *Santa Rufina*, the Hospital de los Venerables –a monument dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century– and the Foundation headquarters in Seville, has housed the *Diego Velázquez Research Centre*, a reference point for the study and teaching of Baroque and the Seville era of the Universal Painter.