

MEDIA RELEASE



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Anthony Alan Foods wins £25,000 at BCC Chamber Awards 2005

BCC announces the winner of the Microsoft Award for Outstanding Business Achievement at the 2005 Chamber Awards Ceremony

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Microsoft today announced the winner of the Microsoft Award for Outstanding Business Achievement. The award and prize money of £25,000 cash was presented to Anthony Alan Foods Ltd at the national ceremony held at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the evening of 24th November 2005.

In the four years since its foundation in 2001, Anthony Alan Foods has grown its turnover by 7,600% and its profit by 1,000% whilst continuing to invest in product development and marketing. It has developed an impressive range of over 53 products including some which achieve the “holy grail” of the food industry by reducing fat content without losing flavour. Anthony Alan Foods puts its success down to its strategy of outsourcing all production and placing responsibility for stock management and ownership with suppliers. This allows the company greater operational flexibility and increased cash flow without any debt.

Natalie Ayres, Microsoft’s Senior Director Small and Medium Solutions and Partners Group commented: “Microsoft is dedicated to supporting business and society on a national and local level, in supporting the economy and providing the technology to drive real prosperity in the UK. Our involvement in the BCC Awards is an important part of our consistent, extensive efforts to support small businesses and their ongoing growth and success.

“The standard of entries received for this year’s Chamber Awards has been incredibly high. We have been more than impressed by the commitment, enthusiasm and success of so many British companies. They all deserve recognition and reward for the contributions they make to their industries, to their customers and to the country. Anthony Alan Foods Ltd is an amazing business and really deserved to win the award of Outstanding Business Achievement. We wish the company every success for the future.”

The prize money from Microsoft is believed to be one of the most generous amounts given for a business award and should provide a welcome injection of cash into the business.

Tony Mbloney, Managing Director of Anthony Alan Foods said: “It would be easy to find a home for £25,000 however we would not use this money for our business, but for the benefit of the community. As a company we have benefited greatly from the quality of personnel that we have been able to draw from the local area. Tomorrow’s entrepreneurs are today’s school children and we believe that an interest in business, fostered at an early age, is not only a benefit to the child but to community as a whole. Our aim would be to use this money, within local schools, to provide resources to facilitate and encourage active business education.”

“We believe that it’s not the company that wins an award, but it’s the people that have worked so hard to make the company such a success. Being recognised for their achievements at such a national level is going to create an immense ‘buzz’ within the business. When people are not only empowered but highly motivated then we believe that they can achieve anything”

Anthony Alan Foods was not the only company to have cause to celebrate as there were also eight other awards were presented as follows:-

Award	Sponsor	Chamber	Winner	Nature of Business
Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology	Microsoft	ngb2b - Newport and Gwent Chamber of Commerce	Ontracks.co.uk	Internet model and hobby retailer
Business of the Year	Barclays	Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Anthony Alan Foods Ltd	Food production
Most Promising New Business	BT	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce	NAC Comms Ltd	Telecoms and IT company
Business Commitment to the Community	BUPA	Nottinghamshire Chamber	Building Blocks Solutions Ltd	Social enterprise organisation
Export Communicator of the Year	CILT	Sussex Enterprise - the Chamber of Commerce for Sussex	Genesis Forwarding Group	Freight forwarding company
Award for Skills and Workforce Development	Learning and Skills Council	Shropshire Chamber of commerce and Industry	Lyreco UK Ltd	Supplier of office products
Entrepreneur of the Year	The Telegraph Business Club	Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Industry & Shipping	Karen Finch, The Hearing Care Centre	Service provider for the hard of hearing
Export Business of the Year	Travelex	Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Jointine Products Ltd	Paper processing business

Bill Midgely, President of BCC said: "I am delighted the Chamber Awards provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the success of businesses across the country. The national winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 are all outstanding businesses and I congratulate them. Anthony Alan Foods Ltd is an exceptional business and really deserved to win the £25,000 prize money from Microsoft for Outstanding Business Achievement."

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Notes to the editors:

- The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the authentic voice of British businesses.
- The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce serving business across the UK, which employ over five million people.
- Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realise their full potential.
- More information on each of the different categories and winners can be found on the Chamber Awards web site – www.chamberawards.co.uk. Photographs taken at the award ceremony can also be viewed and downloaded from this website