



THE BRITISH
CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE



CHAMBER AWARDS 2005

Regional Winners Press Pack
East Midlands

The crème of East Midland's businesses recognised by BCC

BCC announce the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 in the East Midlands

24th October 2005 – The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Microsoft today announce the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 in the East Midlands area. Now in its second year the Chamber Awards was developed to recognise outstanding business achievement within the UK business community.

There are eight different categories of awards Nationally and Accredited Chamber Members were permitted to enter as many as they wished. The award categories and winners for the East Midlands region are detailed below.

Award	Sponsor	Chamber	Winner	Nature of Business
Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology	Microsoft	Northamptonshire Chamber	Quick Formations Ltd	Company registration agent and company credit checking
Business of the Year	Barclays	Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Retail Assist Ltd	IT outsourcing
Most Promising New Business	BT	Northamptonshire Chamber	Impact Recruitment Ltd	Employment agency
Business Commitment to the Community	BUPA	Nottinghamshire Chamber	Building Blocks Solutions Ltd	Social enterprise
Export Communicator of the Year	CILT	Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce	Trelleborg Industrial AVS	Design and manufacture of suspension and anti-vibration products
Award for Skills and Workforce Development	Learning and Skills Council	Derbys hire Chamber of Commerce	Advanced Roofing and Flooring Ltd	Roofing and structural waterproofing contractor
Entrepreneur of the Year	The Telegraph Business Club	Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce	Rachel Hargrave The Phoenix Partners	Communciations
Export Business of the Year	Travelex	Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry	Jointine Products (Lincoln) Ltd	Paper processing

NB: For more information on each of the different categories and winners please refer to relevant media alert below.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said:

"I am delighted the Chamber Awards provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the success of businesses across the country. Those who have got this far are already recognised as outstanding within their own regions and I congratulate them. It will be tough to pick the national winners from such a high calibre of regional winners."

Each of the regional winners received a certificate and they will all now go through to the national round of judging and the chance to win the top prize of **£25,000**. This prize will be awarded to the company that the judges agree should win the overall title of **Microsoft Award for Outstanding Business Achievement**. Last year this was won by DB Shoes LTD from Rushden, Northamptonshire. The company used database technology to pull itself back from the brink of receivership and enter itself into new and profitable niche markets - even whilst fighting off competition from cheaper overseas competitors!

Natalie Ayres, Microsoft's Senior Director Small and Medium Solutions and Partners Group added;

"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. We wish all the winners the best of luck in the national judging."

The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

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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.

About Microsoft

- Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and solutions that help people and businesses realise their full potential.

MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Microsoft announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology

Quick Formations Ltd, a member of Northamptonshire Chamber, has been announced as the regional winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2005. The business (a company registration agent and company credit checking) won the Microsoft-sponsored award for its innovative technology-based approach to forming and registering companies that is transparent, seamless and fully integrated with Companies House.

Natalie Ayres, Microsoft's Senior Director Small and Medium Solutions and Partners Group said; "We looked for companies that clearly exploited every opportunity that technology could bring to their businesses either to achieve specific goals or to enhance overall business performance. The regional winners are not just a great advertisement for the use of technology but great examples for their industries too. We look forward to announcing the national winner in November."

Quick Formations Ltd will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said;

"Businesses can often be intimidated by technology. Learning from those who have benefited from implementing new systems can break down some of the barriers to accessing technology. Companies who have invested and innovated in technology are leading the way for businesses, not only in the UK but across the globe."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Barclays announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Business of the Year Award

Retail Assist Ltd, a member of Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business of the Year Award in the East Midlands finals for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (an IT outsourcing business) won the Barclays-sponsored award for the incredible success it has achieved as a business since its inception in 1999. The company has a strong people orientation and a flexible and responsive offer. The judges described it as very entrepreneurial and successful.

Angela Potter, Head of International Trade & Cash Solutions at Barclays, commented:

"Year in, year out, businesses across the UK achieve phenomenal success and growth. To therefore be selected as a regional winner of the Business of the Year award takes something extra special. Each has demonstrated not only all-round excellence in their field but convinced the judges that they have strategies in place to drive future growth."

Retail Assist will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said:

"The winners of this award are being recognised not just for the success they have achieved but also for their potential. They have impressed the judges with their business excellence."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and BT announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Most Promising New Business Award

Impact Recruitment Ltd, a member of Northamptonshire Chamber, has been announced as the regional winner of the Most Promising New Business Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (an employment agency) won the BT-sponsored award for the success it has achieved in its first two years of operation and its establishment as one of Northamptonshire's leading suppliers of temporary staff.

Andrew McGregor, Head of Marketing & Strategy at BT Business, commented;

"We were looking for new companies that clearly have potential for growth and a finely tuned 'nose for success'. In particular, the judges were searching for businesses that demonstrated the greatest vision and commitment in their quest to succeed. The competition was stiff as there were so many exciting new businesses that entered. We wish the regional winners every success in the next round of judging."

Impact Recruitment will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said;

"Small businesses are the backbone of the UK economy. We need to identify and support businesses which we believe have the capability to go from strength to strength in the years to come. We hope this award will encourage them to continue the progress they have already made."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and BUPA announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Business Commitment to the Community Award

Building Blocks Solutions Ltd, a member of Nottinghamshire Chamber, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business Commitment to the Community Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (a social enterprise organisation) won the BUPA-sponsored award because the whole business is concerned with supporting its local community.

Steve Flanagan, Commercial Director of BUPA, said:

“We were looking for companies that have developed creative and innovative projects or programmes that have had a positive impact on their local community or environment. Responsible businesses like these tend to have happier staff and customers and, as a result, a healthier bottom-line. We wish the regional winners every success in the next round of judging.”

Building Blocks Solutions Ltd will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said;

“Small businesses are integral parts of their local communities. Running a business is a demanding profession but many firms still commit to giving something back to the areas in which they are based. This award recognises those who have tried to make a real difference to their local community.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and CILT announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Export Communicator of the Year Award

Trelleborg Industrial AVS, a member of Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Export Communicator of the Year Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (that designs and manufactures suspension and anti vibration products) won the CILT-sponsored award for its new multi-lingual contact centre, created as part of a company-wide restructuring.

Isabella Moore, Director, CILT, the National Centre for Languages commented:

"Critical to doing business internationally is the ability to communicate effectively. Companies, no matter what size, that invest in language skills will not only find it easier to remove cultural barriers - they will also create more opportunities to grow, especially in emerging markets. The regional winners of this award have done just that and deserve this recognition."

Trelleborg Industrial AVS will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said;

"Doing business abroad not only requires the right products – it requires an ability to understand and bridge cultural and language difficulties. Winners in this category have demonstrated their ability to achieve this, to the benefit of their businesses."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and LSC announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development

Advanced Roofing and Flooring Ltd, a member of Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (a roofing and structural waterproofing contractor) won the LSC-sponsored award for showing that workforce development is a true 'cornerstone' of the business and for having exceptional career pathways and team working.

Jaine Clarke, Director for Skills Strategy and Planning at LSC said;

"Having trained, motivated and hard working staff is the best financial investment that a business can make. The judges were looking for companies that have put workforce and skills development at the top of their agenda and are able to demonstrate how both individuals and businesses benefit from this investment. We wish the regional winners the best of luck in the next round of judging."

Advanced Roofing and Flooring Ltd will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said;

"Access to staff with the right skills remains an ongoing challenge for many businesses. It is encouraging to see companies, such as these regional winners, who have taken responsibility for the development and training of their staff. They have shown the importance of investing in their workforce, and I hope other businesses will follow."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and The Telegraph Business Club announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Rachel Hargrave of The Pheonix Partners, a member of Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2005. Rachel won the Telegraph Business Club-sponsored award for creating and building her communications business, and increasing turnover by 73% in its first two years of operation. In particular her ideas, energy and commitment impressed the judges.

Richard Collins, Head of the Daily Telegraph Business Club said:

“It was so encouraging to see so many ‘new breed’ entrepreneurs rising through the ranks and doing so well, despite challenging economic times. However, we were looking for individuals that really stood out from the crowd and had the vision and determination to take their business to extraordinary heights. We wish the regional winners every success in the national judging.”

Rachel will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said;

“Entrepreneurs lead their businesses with vision and determination - never afraid to seize opportunities for growth and success. This award recognises those inspirational figures that have made an invaluable contribution to their companies over a sustained period of time.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Travelex announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Export Business of the Year Award

Jointine Products (Lincoln) Ltd, a member of Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been announced as the regional winner of the Export Business of the Year Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (a paper processing business) won the Travelex-sponsored award for increasing its export sales to 82% of its turnover since its foundation in 1999 to markets as diverse as the United States, India and Italy. The judges were particularly impressed with the level of the company's e-communications.

Tony Wilson Director, Commercial Foreign Exchange EMEA at Travelex, said:

"It takes guts to enter foreign markets but it takes greater skill and determination to make a success of it. We were looking for businesses that had not only gone the extra mile to tailor their products and services to suit overseas buyers, but that had structured their businesses in order to deal with the demand and risks inherent in trading overseas. The regional winners are 'exemplars' of this and we wish them every success in the national judging."

Jointine Products will now go through to the national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of Chamber Awards 2005 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on the 24th November 2005.

David Frost, Director General of BCC said;

"Doing business abroad not only presents a great opportunity for growth – it also creates a number of challenges for business. The companies who have entered this award show how it can be done and will reap the rewards of expanding their markets and customer base in other countries."

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