



THE BRITISH
CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE



CHAMBER AWARDS 2005

Regional Winners Press Pack
Yorkshire and Humber

The crème of Yorkshire and Humber's businesses recognised by BCC

BCC announce the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 in the Yorkshire and Humber Region

3rd October 2005 – The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Microsoft today announce the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2005 in the Yorkshire and Humber 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 from the Yorkshire and Humber region are detailed below.

Award	Sponsor	Chamber	Winner	Nature of Business
Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology	Microsoft	Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Billington Structures Ltd	Steelwork sub-contractor
Business of the Year	Barclays	Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Anthony Alan Foods Ltd	Food production
Most Promising New Business	BT	Rotherham Chamber	Advanced Sewer Products Ltd	Manufacturer of the patented 'Camstopper'
Business Commitment to the Community	BUPA	Rotherham Chamber	Chantry Builders Ltd	Construction
Export Communicator of the Year	CILT	The Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce	Nisa International	Export wholesaler of British groceries
Award for Skills and Workforce Development	Learning and Skills Council	Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Capex Health Ltd	Health IT implementation service
Entrepreneur of the Year	The Telegraph Business Club	Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise	Robert Stirland Artesian Spas UK Ltd	Retailer – hot tubs and spas
Export Business of the Year	Travelex	The Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce	Nisa International	Export wholesaler of British groceries

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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology

Billington Structures Ltd, a member of Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been announced as the regional winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. The business (a steelwork sub-contractor) won the Microsoft-sponsored award for exploiting its bespoke management information system BILMIS. The system was developed as a key problem avoidance tool and its use has significantly contributed to the company's turnover increasing by 54% over the last 3 years.

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."

Billington Structures 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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Business of the Year Award

Anthony Alan Foods Ltd, a member of Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business of the Year Award in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (a food production company which manufactures Weight Watchers cakes) won the Barclays-sponsored award for its commitment to product development and for the incredible financial success and market share achieved by the company. In the last 4 years the company has enjoyed a turnover growth rate of 7,600%. The judges also commented on the modern approach to manufacturing and excellent logistics that the company adopts.

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."

Anthony Alan Foods 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:

"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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Most Promising New Business Award

Advanced Sewer Products Ltd, a member of Rotherham Chamber, has been announced as the regional winner of the Most Promising New Business Award in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (the manufacturer of the patented 'Camstopper') won the BT-sponsored award for the research, development and technology used in the development of its successful proprietary drain and sewer product. Since launching 2 years ago the company has secured £200,000 in turnover.

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."

Advanced Sewer Products 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 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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Business Commitment to the Community Award

Chantry Builders Ltd, a member of Rotherham Chamber, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business Commitment to the Community Award in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (a construction company) won the BUPA-sponsored award its overall commitment to activities in its local community. In addition to its main focus of commercial construction, the company has pays close attention to social, community and public waste sectors, as well as making an effort to employ local people and implement recycling schemes.

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.”

Chantry Builders 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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Export Communicator of the Year Award

Nisa International, a member of The Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Export Communicator of the Year Award in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (export wholesaler of British groceries) won the CILT-sponsored award for its exemplary approach to export communications. The company employs many linguists but also encourages staff to learn new languages. Nisa International supports them financially and with study time to help make this happen. The company also goes to great lengths to ensure the correct labelling of food in different countries.

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."

Nisa International 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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development

Capex Health Ltd, a member of Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has been announced as the regional winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (a health IT implementation service) won the LSC-sponsored award for its commitment to investing in the unemployed and low skilled individuals. The company also has an impressive intensive training and mentoring scheme and has also developed a Foundation Degree with Sheffield Hallam University

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."

Capex Health 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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Robert Stirland of Artesian Spas UK Ltd, a member of Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise, has been announced as the regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. Robert won the Telegraph Business Club-sponsored award for his sound judgement and ability to spot great business opportunities. The judging panel also commented that he is smart in the way he incentivises his staff in a strategic way that not only protects the business but also encourages performance.

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.”

Robert 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 Yorkshire and Humber regional winner of the Export Business of the Year Award

Nisa International, a member of The Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Export Business of the Year Award in the Yorkshire and Humber region for the Chamber Awards 2005. The company (export wholesaler of British groceries) won the Travelex-sponsored award for the company's impressive growth, which has increased by 50% over the last three years. The judging panel also recognised the progress the company has made in exporting to difficult markets, such as Nepal, Vietnam and Mozambique

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."

Nisa International 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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