

MEDIA RELEASE



THE BRITISH
CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE

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BCC and LSC announce national winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development

Lyreco UK Ltd, a member of Shropshire Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise, has been announced as the national winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development at the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards 2005. Lyreco, a supplier of office products, won the LSC-sponsored award for its innovative approach to workforce development. The company does not use professional trainers but people who were previously successful in the role. This approach ensures all Lyreco's development activities are focused towards achieving its vision and mission.

Jaine Clarke, Director for Skills Strategy and Planning at LSC, said: "Lyreco was a clear winner of the LSC Award for Skills and Workforce Development. They demonstrated a high level of dedication in developing the skills of their employees and a clear recognition that by investing in the skills of their staff they will improve the company's overall performance and profitability. Lyreco should be seen as an example of best practice to other organisations."

Ian Lawson, Training & Development Director at Lyreco, added: "We have invested in our people to grow the business and this has worked. Winning this award is fantastic recognition from the judges that we have got it about right. Developing our people is a journey and not a destination, winning this award would be acknowledgement that we are well on our way."

Lyreco UK saw off competition from seven other finalists in this award category. More information on these finalists can be found in the regional winner press packs on www.chamberawards.co.uk.

BCC President Bill Midgley said: “Access to staff with the right skills remains an ongoing challenge for many businesses. Lyreco UK have shown the importance of investing in their workforce, and I hope other businesses will follow their example.”

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Notes to 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.
- 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