



THE BRITISH
CHAMBERS OF
COMMERCE



CHAMBER AWARDS 2006

Regional Winners Press Pack
East Midlands

The crème of the East Midlands businesses recognised by British Chambers of Commerce

BCC announces the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 in the East Midlands

17th October 2006 – The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Microsoft today announce the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 in the East Midlands. Now in its third year the Chamber Awards was developed to recognise outstanding business achievement within the UK business community.

There are seven 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 are detailed below.

Award	Sponsor	Chamber	Winner	Nature of Business
Microsoft Award for Innovation Through Technology	Microsoft	Northamptonshire	Hambleside Danelaw Ltd	Manufacture of roofing and ventilation products for the construction industry
Business of the Year	Composite Legal Expenses	Derbyshire	Zibrant	Corporate events management
Most Promising New Business	BT	Leicestershire	ENTO Limited	Training and development
Business Commitment to the Community	Westfield Heath	Northamptonshire	Viridian Nutrition	Supplier of nutritional supplements to independent health food stores
Award for Skills and Workforce Development	The Telegraph Business Club	Lincolnshire	Wright Vigar Ltd	Chartered accountants
Entrepreneur of the Year	Yorkshire Bank	Leicestershire	Hilary Devey - Pall-Ex Limited	Distribution of palletised freight
Exporter of the Year	UK Trade & Investment	Derbyshire	Amber Composites Limited	Composites material manufacturer and supplier to the automotive, aerospace and leisure industries

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

Peter Mileham, President of the 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 Award for Outstanding Business Achievement courtesy of Microsoft. Last year this was won by Anthony Alan Foods Ltd from Barnsley Chamber of Commerce, South Yorkshire, which has the UK licence to manufacture cakes under the Weightwatchers brand. Using innovative and ground breaking technology, the company was able to produce a range of products that became instant market leaders and have remained so ever since. This is despite fierce competition from existing incumbents in the market, all of whom are household names.

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 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

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For further information or requests for interviews please contact;

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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 winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd, a member of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Microsoft Award for Innovation through Technology in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2006. The business (manufacturer of roofing and ventilation products for the construction industry) won the Microsoft-sponsored award as judges were very impressed with their engineering environment and their innovative design and use of new materials for an improved roof-light compliant with challenging new legislation.

Natalie Ayres, Microsoft's Senior Director Small and Medium Solutions and Partners Group said; "In an ever more competitive market, businesses are on the hunt for anything that can give that all important competitive edge. The most innovative are looking closely at their technology investment to identify not just where they can streamline their business processes but how they might enhance or create products and services. We are proud to celebrate the best of these ideas."

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC, said;

"Technology now touches all businesses. It is often the difference between success and failure. Hambleside Danelaw Ltd has made its technology investment work. They have looked closely at how their businesses could be made better, not just more efficient, with technology."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Composite Legal Expenses announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Business of the Year Award

Zibrant, a member of the Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business of the Year Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2006. The company (a corporate events management specialist) won the Composite Legal Expenses-sponsored award in recognition of its impressive financial performance matched with its innovative client service and employee centred approach.

John Mullin, Managing Director, Composite Legal Expenses, commented;

“This award is reserved for the very best businesses across the country. Congratulations to Zibrant, you join a very small and elite band of businesses that exemplify this pinnacle of achievement. In all areas of your business you illustrate a level of skill for all business people to learn from.”

Zibrant will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC, said;

“Zibrant is a business that really stands out from the crowd. The competition was fierce. Making it to the short list is tough and winning is reserved for only the very best. Congratulations.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

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

ENTO Limited, a member of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Most Promising New Business Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2006. The company (a training and development specialist) won the BT-sponsored award as judges were impressed by the business' performance and development in the last three years, in particular the 76% increase in turnover between 2004 and 2005. In addition, it was felt that future plans showed equal promise.

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

“Starting a new business is daunting enough, but to take it successfully through its' first few years needs courage, talent and tenacity. BT is delighted to recognise this success and applauds those entrepreneurs for their determination and achievement.”

ENTO Limited will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC, said;

“Success in business is always the result of very hard work on the part of the founders. Seems quite negative ENTO Limited is an inspiration to all of us in business.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

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

Viridian Nutrition, a member of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Business Commitment to the Community Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2006. The company (a supplier of nutritional supplements to independent health food stores) won the Westfield Health-sponsored award because the judges were impressed by its strong and award winning commitment to the community. From launch, the company has combined a commitment to charity with a strong recycling programme. The recycling programme in particular was impressive as it both helps the environment and enhances store and consumer loyalty and support for the Viridian brand.

Jill Davies, Executive Director, Sales and Marketing, Westfield Health said;

“For many businesses the contribution they make to their community stops at the payment of taxes or salaries to employees. The winner of this award sees its role in much broader terms. It shows us that seeking to improve the communities in which you operate is not just a moral obligation but a business opportunity too.”

Viridian Nutrition will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said;

“Business has always been the economic backbone of our society but now many of us want to go much further than this. The winner of this award shows us how you can combine your business objectives with a desire to positively impact your local community.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and the Telegraph Business Club announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Award for Skills and Workforce Development

Wright Vigar Ltd, a member of the Lincolnshire 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 2006. The organisation (Chartered accountants) won the Telegraph Business Club-sponsored award as judges felt their commitment and investment in continuous training and development exemplified best practice in skills and workforce development. In particular the judges were impressed by the company's investment in a dedicated personnel director and training manager.

"Every week the Business Club page in the Daily Telegraph reveals the 'Secrets of Success' of an exceptionally talented entrepreneur," says David Sumner Smith, programme director of the Telegraph Business Club. "And in the vast majority of cases that 'secret' relates directly to the performance of their staff team. The winner of this award provides another strong reminder of the positive impact on business performance resulting from investment in the development of your workforce's skills."

Wright Vigar Ltd will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said,

"The BCC has long been an advocate of the importance of investing in the skills development of your workforce. A strategic skills and workforce development programme will be one of the most effective investments any business can make. The winner of this award sets a standard we should aspire to."

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and Yorkshire Bank announce the East Midlands regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Hilary Devey of Pall-Ex Limited, a member of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce, she has been announced as the regional winner of the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2006.

Hilary won the Yorkshire Bank sponsored award in recognition of the impressive performance of his/her business. In just ten years, Pall-Ex achieved very strong strategic and financial results, pioneering in many of its initiatives and setting standards for other logistics companies to follow. In addition, Pall-Ex has embraced international opportunities and has recently signed an agreement with a major global operator which will see it become the UK partner for European overland services including mainland and Eastern Europe.

Brian Colquhoun, Head of Integrated Financial Solutions, Yorkshire Bank said,

“Just as they say there is a novel in us all, everyone thinks they can spot a business opportunity and create a successful company. This is not true. Entrepreneurs are rare. This award recognises the achievements of the best.”

Hilary will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said,

“Entrepreneurs are the pioneers of the modern age. They take risks. They spot opportunities when most of us see barriers. The finalists of this award are members of an all too small elite club in this country.”

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MEDIA ALERT:

BCC and UK Trade & Investment announce the East Midlands winner of the Exporter of the Year Award

Amber Composites Limited, a member of the Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce, has been announced as the regional winner of the Exporter of the Year Award in the East Midlands for the Chamber Awards 2006. The organisation (a composites material manufacturer and supplier to the automotive, aerospace and leisure industries) won the UK Trade & Investment sponsored award in recognition of the excellent reputation it has established in a highly specialist market, against much larger competition.

The judges were impressed by how they were using leading British technology to open up new markets and opportunities as far as South Africa, The United States, Japan, and Australasia. The company has shown that through innovation, product development and by adapting to changing world markets, it can enjoy sustained growth, and is predicting continuing success on a global scale. In addition, the judges were impressed by how Amber Composites Ltd has provided stable employment since 1988 in a deprived ex-mining area of the Midlands and helps the local community by offering local jobs wherever possible.

Andrew Cahn, Chief Executive of UK Trade & Investment commented:

"I am delighted that UK Trade & Investment is sponsoring this award, and congratulate Amber Composites Ltd on becoming regional winner for the East Midlands region. Exporters like Amber Composites Ltd make a crucial contribution to the economy and it is good to see them receiving recognition for this. I wish them all the best in the national competition.

Amber Composites Limited will now go through to national judging and the chance to win the top prize of £25,000, courtesy of Microsoft. The National Winners of Chamber Awards 2006 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London on the 23rd November 2006.

Peter Mileham, President of the BCC said,

"Making a success of your business in your local community or the UK is tough enough – extending that into international markets takes courage and skill. Congratulations to Amber Composites Limited. Export markets are all too often an untapped business opportunity. You have shown what can be achieved."

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Note to the editor:

UK Trade & Investment is the lead government organisation that provides support for UK companies looking to develop international business. It also provides support for overseas companies wishing to invest in the UK. UK Trade & Investment has a wide range of services, backed-up by a network of trade advisors around the UK and worldwide who can provide market intelligence, advice on regulations, sales leads, and financial and practical support.