



For immediate release

British Chambers of Commerce announces winners of Chamber Awards 2008 in the North East

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Royal Bank of Scotland today announce the regional winners of the Chamber Awards 2008 in the North East. Now in its 5th year the Chamber Awards were developed to recognise outstanding business achievement within the UK business community.

There are eight different categories of awards nationally and businesses were permitted to enter as many as they wished. The award categories and winners for the North East are detailed below.

Award	Sponsor	Chamber and PR Contact	Winner / Location	Nature of Business
Achievement in International Business	Royal Bank of Scotland	Andrew Sugden 0191 374 6454 andrew.sugden@ne-cc.com	Corus Tubes Energy Business Hartlepool	Steel linepipe
Award for Innovation Through Technology	Dell		Derwent Systems Ltd Cramlington	Security
Excellence in Customer Service	AXA PPP		Eclipse Translations Ltd Northumberland	Support Services
Business of the Year	Blackberry		Darchem Engineering Ltd Stockton on Tees	Thermal Engineering

NB: For more information on each of the different award categories and winners please contact relevant Chamber PR contact as detailed in the table above.

Neville Reyner, President of the BCC, said:

“The Chamber Awards are a widely regarded as a highlight in the business calendar nationally and regionally and rightly so. Every year the Awards inspire us all with the quality and strength of Britain’s best businesses. The winners represent the pinnacle of achievement in business. They serve to inspire those of us that have been in business for years and those embarking on the adventure of setting up their own company.”

Each of the regional winners receives a certificate and they will all now go through to the national round of judging and the chance to win the top prize of **£50,000 courtesy of Royal Bank of Scotland**. This prize will be awarded to the company that the judges agree should win the overall Award for Outstanding Business Achievement. Last year this was won by Tyrrells Potato Chips Ltd. The judges remarked on the way the company approached the green issue in such an ambitious way. They introduced reed beds for waste water and extensive recycling and energy reduction measures. They have also provided nesting for wildlife on their land. Tyrrells has its own production of organic potatoes and rapeseed oil, and has therefore reduced its transport needs.

Mark Winters, Regional Director, NatWest and RBS Business Banking North East added;

“The contribution made to our regional and national economy by companies like those that have entered the awards this year is an inspiration to everyone in business. Now more than ever, we should applaud the energy, commitment and results of these great British businesses. We wish all the winners the best of luck in the national judging.”

The National Winners of the Chamber Awards 2008 will be announced at a Gala Dinner at the Natural History Museum in London on the 27th November 2008.

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For further information about the national awards 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.