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**For immediate release**

## Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce wins Excellence in Membership Services prize at Chamber Awards bash

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce is celebrating after winning the Excellence in Membership Services award, sponsored by Composite Legal Expenses, at the British Chambers of Commerce's annual Chamber Awards 2013. The Chamber Awards, now in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, is one of the showpiece events in the business calendar, highlighting the role of business as a positive force for the UK recovery, and for local communities.

The Chamber was praised by the judging panel for its first class approach to customer care, with a consistent retention rate of 85%. It has recently introduced two new member services, including Jumpstart, a service to assist businesses with HMRC's research and development tax scheme, and Chamber Foreign Exchange for would-be exporters.

Nora Senior, President of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) said:

"This Chamber stands out as a shining light to others. The drive and focus shown by the Chamber in offering a comprehensive range of services to retain their customer base is an example for us all. Ayrshire Chamber is a well-deserving recipient of this award, and is working to show the world why Business is Good for Britain."

**Tim Mullins, Head of Business Development at Composite Legal Expenses said:**

"Having worked closely with Val, Helen and the rest of the team at Ayrshire for a number of years I have witnessed first-hand their dedication and enthusiasm to making sure their members benefit from a first class package of services and support. I am delighted that their efforts have been rewarded through this achievement and wish them many further years of success."

Ends

Notes to editors:

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards took place Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November at The Brewery in London, and was supported by the RBS Group, British Library, BT Business, Composite Legal Expenses, Dell, DHL Express, Qdos Consulting, Westfield Health and Utilitywise.

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The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) sits at the heart of a powerful network of 53 Accredited Chambers of Commerce across the UK, representing thousands of businesses of all sizes and within all sectors. For more information visit: [www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)