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For immediate release

O'Brien Contractors win £25,000 for Outstanding Personal Achievement at Chamber Awards bash

Peter O'Brien of O'Brien Contractors, a construction firm from Leamington Spa, is celebrating after winning the Outstanding Personal Achievement award at the British Chambers of Commerce's Chamber awards ceremony, supported by the British Library. The award was presented along with a £25,000 cash prize donated by RBS. The Chamber Awards, now in the 10th 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.

O'Brien Contractors, a member of Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce, were crowned the winners after being praised by the judging panel for responding to a customer survey and diversifying the business to offer a complete building solution. In addition, having been hit hard by the recession, Peter O'Brien invested in training for his staff, created an apprenticeship scheme to increase the knowledge base, purchased more equipment and marketed the business through social media channels. Having invested £1m over the last four years, 2013 turnover has seen them top their pre-recession peak in 2008.

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

"I visit many businesses up and down the country and I am constantly impressed by their determination, innovation and the contributions they are making to their local communities. With focus and passion, O'Brien Contractors has developed a fine offering in the marketplace, and is a worthy recipient of the £25,000 prize. Peter is showing the world why Business is Good for Britain."

Isabel Oswell, Head of Business & Research Audiences at the British Library said:

"Knowing your market and your customers' needs is crucial to aiding business survival and growth. It is both the ability to track trends and respond to them, using resources like those at the British Library, as well as the ability to adapt your staff base and operations that makes some special entrepreneurs stand out from their competitors, and Peter has shown himself to be a well-deserved recipient of this award."

Ends

Notes to editors:

The 10th annual British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards took place Thursday 28th 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