



## Business West lands international trade Award

A desire to boost the export fortunes of companies in Bristol, Bath and Gloucestershire has helped Business West secure a major honour at the British Chambers of Commerce Chamber Awards.

The organisation, which looks after 1500 members, beat off competition from across the UK to win the Excellence in International Trade title for its innovative range of solutions that are helping firms do business overseas.

Leading the way is the development of a new online platform that supports exporters with all aspects of international trade, including translations, credit checks, cargo insurance and focused legal advice.

Business West – the trading name for Bath, Bristol and Gloucester Chambers of Commerce – also employs 50 dedicated international staff and was the first Chamber to offer a Letter of Credit service, a service that now supports the needs of 500 companies across the UK.

Martyn Pellew, President of the British Chambers of Commerce, commented: “The Chambers have not been immune to the pressures of the recession and we have had to change the way we operate in order to become more dynamic and ensure the services and support we offer match what our businesses need.

“Business West has done just that by creating a comprehensive range of export solutions that will greatly benefit Chambers and their members across Britain.

“This is having a major impact on increasing overseas orders and makes Business West the ideal choice for the Excellence in International Trade Award.”

Over 500 guests were on hand at the Guildhall in London to witness the culmination of the British Chambers of Commerce Chamber Awards, which is the flagship event in the ‘Business is Good for Britain’ campaign.

Joining Business West on the podium were three other Chambers, who were all recognised for their achievements during 2012. These included:

- Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise (Most Effective Campaigning)
- North East Chamber of Commerce (Excellence in Membership Services)
- Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce (Chamber of the Year)

Now in its 9th year, the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards 2012 are supported by the RBS Group, BT Business, Dell, DHL Express, Westfield Health, Club Wembley, Acua Limited, Qdos Consulting and Composite Legal Expenses.

**ENDS**

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**Notes to editors:**

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is the national voice of local business.

The BCC sits at the heart of a powerful nationwide network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce, serving over **100,000 businesses** across the UK, which **employ over five million people**.

For more information visit: **[www.britishchambers.org.uk](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)**

There are four categories in the annual Chamber Awards. Most Effective Campaigning, sponsored by BT Business, Excellence in Membership Services, sponsored by Composite Legal Expenses, Excellence in International Trade Services, sponsored by RBS and NatWest and Chamber of the Year, sponsored by Qdos Consulting Ltd.