



INNOVATION WITH CONCRETE WINS COMPANY TOP UK BUSINESS AWARD

A South Wales material technology firm has beaten off competition from some of Britain's best high tech businesses to win a leading UK industry award.

Concrete Canvas Ltd (CCL), based in Pontypridd, has collected the coveted British Chambers of Commerce Award for Innovation through Technology, sponsored by Dell.

Judges were so impressed with the rapidly-growing company's unique approach that they also named Concrete Canvas as a runner up for the award for Outstanding Business Achievement, which earned the company a £15,000 cash prize.

The company created a unique concrete canvas – a cement-impregnated fabric that hardens to form a simple thin, durable, water and fire proof concrete layer.

John Longworth, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Concrete Canvas is exactly the kind of company we need in this country. It is leading the way by creating a highly innovative product which has major implications for military and civil engineering markets across the globe. This growing business has not only built a unique selling point for itself, it's also solved a problem for its clients by creating an energy efficient, environmentally friendly and cost effective product."

CCL was founded by engineers Peter Brewin and Will Crawford, who invented the technology during a post-graduate degree at the RCA and Imperial College.

Their unique product allows some construction tasks to be completed in hours instead of days with less than 10 per cent of the material usually required. It's Nissen-Hut shaped structures can be constructed by two people in under an hour and is ready to use in 24 hours. The company's market is now worth £7bn in three sectors: civil, defence and aid.

Thanks to the £15,000 award, Concrete Canvas will be able to invest in the development of critical inline blending equipment which will ultimately lower the cost of production and allow for greater production flexibility.

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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**

There are nine categories in the annual Chamber Awards. Most Promising New Business, sponsored by BT Business, Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by BT Directories, Business of the Year, sponsored by Westfield Health, Innovation Through Technology, sponsored by Dell, Achievement in International Business, sponsored by DHL Express, The Sustainability Award, sponsored by the British Standards Institution (BSI), Excellence in Customer Service, sponsored by AXA PPP healthcare, Excellence in People Development, sponsored by Composite Legal Expenses and Finding New International Markets, sponsored by RBS and NatWest. The Award for Outstanding Business Achievement, sponsored by RBS and NatWest, is awarded to the overall winner, selected from any category.