



Embargoed until 1st October 2012

Corby electronics specialist claims East Midlands 'Business of the Year' prize at the Chamber Awards 2012

The world's leading distributor of electronics and maintenance products has secured a prestigious achievement for the town after it was announced as the Chamber Awards 2012's Business of the Year for the East Midlands (sponsored by Westfield Health).

RS Components, which employs 2500 people across the UK, made it a double celebration when it also won the Excellence in Innovation category (sponsored by Dell), beating off competition from across the region

Judges were impressed with the company's ability to grow turnover through advancements to its e-commerce facility and a renewed focus on developing its staff and expansion in international markets, where it currently boasts operations in 32 countries.

There was another winner from Northamptonshire, with Whittlebury Hall securing the Sustainability Award for its commitment to the environment.

The full list of Award winners in the East Midlands includes:

- Birchover Hotel Apartments (Commitment to People Development)
- Hall Fast Industrial Supplies (Achievement in International Business)
- Inspirepac (Excellence in Customer Service)
- Proactive International PR (Most Promising New Business)
- Shredall's Lloyd Williams (Entrepreneur of the Year)
- Zibrant (Marketing Campaign of the Year)

President of the British Chambers of Commerce Martyn Pellew said: "There has never been a more important time for businesses to showcase the amazing work they are doing on a day-to-day basis.

"The Chamber Awards is a perfect platform for them to do just that and receive the recognition and profile they deserve for helping move the economy forward and create employment, often in local areas."

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) Chamber Awards 2012 is committed to finding the best businesses in Britain through a series of regional heats followed by a National Final, due to be held at London's Guildhall on November 29th.

Now in its 9th year, the competition is one of the showcase events for the 'Business is Good for Britain' campaign that highlights the role of business as a positive force for the UK recovery and the success of local communities and individuals.

Located in headquarters in Corby, RS Components sell 550,000 different products ranging from semi-conductors to power tools and protective clothing.

It starts every morning with a zero sales book and, by the end of the day, it will have shipped over 45,000 orders to a customer base that is now spanning more than 1.6 million people.

Improved logistics, supply chain processes and focused marketing has helped the company bounce back from the recession to post year-on-year growth, with the transformation of its iconic paper catalogue into a number of local currency e-commerce websites driving this expansion.

Whittlebury Hall also impressed judges in the Sustainability category, with its desire to become one of the 'greenest' hotels and conference centres in England.

The venue, which offers 212 spacious double bedrooms, a day spa, leisure club, 3 restaurants and 18 training suites, has not taken this decision lightly, instead believing it will help drive consumer popularity and increase bookings.

Some of the eco-friendly measures already introduced include power-off master switches, smart meter programming for the gas boilers, an energy efficient laundry machine and a phased in LED lighting system.

Whittlebury Hall is also fully committed to recycling all glass, office paper, waste, plastics and, through an onsite bailing machine, card waste. This waste management system has reduced costs from £38,000 per year to just £21,000, with no waste sent to landfill.

The two Northamptonshire companies, along with the six other winners, will now represent the East Midlands in their respective categories in the Grand Final, with the chance to win £25,000 and the title of "Outstanding Business Achievement", courtesy of the RBS Group.

Martyn concluded: "A record number of firms have taken part this year, all determined to prove that 'Business is Good for Britain!'"

The Chamber Awards 2012 is supported by the RBS Group, BT Business, Dell, DHL Express, Westfield Health and Acua Limited.

For further information or to book your place at the National Awards Final, visit **www.chamberawards.co.uk**

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For further information, please contact Russ Cockburn on 07812 600271 or email russ@dc-pr.co.uk

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)