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## **Nottinghamshire trio claim Chamber Awards 2012 success**

A specialist telecoms based PR consultancy, a mobile shredding company and a leading provider of industrial supplies are proving that 'Business is Good for Britain' after securing three of the main titles in the East Midlands heats of the Chamber Awards 2012.

Proactive International PR beat off challengers from across the region to win Most Promising New Business (sponsored by BT Business), with Shredall's Lloyd Williams and Hall Fast Industrial Supplies impressing judges to land the Entrepreneur of the Year and Achievement in International Business (sponsored by DHL Express) titles respectively.

The latter, which employs 9 people at its Newark facility, has come a long way since it started life in a home office in 2006 and now boasts a turnover of £1.2m and a 9-strong workforce.

Originally providing specialist fasteners to the UK automotive sector, Hall Fast has built on its core strengths by diversifying its product offer and now provides over 48,000 products, including workwear, tools and handling equipment.

Growth has also come from overseas, with the firm reacting to the recession of 2009 by moving into international markets, including Australia, Europe, Honduras, Thailand and, increasingly, into China.

In 2012, Hall Fast will supply into its 75th country and expect exports to account for 50% of its order book.

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 on Racecourse Road in Southwell, Proactive is a globally focused PR consultancy working with 30 technology-based clients across four continents.

The agency, which won the Most Promising New Business Award, has forged strong links with international events and industry bodies, not to mention a network of partners, contractors and suppliers that provide global reach for an increasing portfolio of customers.

It is already offering employment opportunities for young, talented graduates and is continually pushing the boundaries of innovation, with the launch of a white label 'TV channel' service for online and trade media outlets.

The long-term aim for Proactive is to become the market-leading PR agency for the telecoms sector and smash the £2m turnover barrier in the process.

The final winner in Nottingham was Lloyd Williams, who picked up the Entrepreneur of the Year Award for the way he has helped develop Shredall into one of the UK's largest shredding and data storage specialists.

Seen as the driving force behind the business, he has grown the venture from a standing start to a firm set to break the £2m barrier this year, servicing 4,500 clients across the UK.

His passion for expansion has seen the company continually add to the services it offers and clients can now tap into scheduled/ad-hoc shredding on or offsite and secure destruction of paper based documents, media tapes, computer hard drives, microfilm, uniforms and credit cards.

In 2010, Lloyd invited his son and daughter to join the board and the expanded team has successfully tripled the size of its specialist underground data storage facility.

Other successful companies in the East Midlands included:

- Birchover Hotel Apartments (Commitment to People Development)
- Inspirepac (Excellence in Customer Service)
- RS Components (Business of the Year and Excellence in Innovation Awards)
- Whittlebury Hall and Spa (Sustainability Award)
- Zibrant (Marketing Campaign of the Year)

The East Midlands winners will now go forward and compete 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**

**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)**