



**Embargoed until 1st October 2012**

## **Five Star Liverpool takes the honours at the Chamber Awards 2012**

Merseyside has claimed the king of the North West title after local organisations secured five out of the seven Chamber Awards in the North West.

Eco Environments, which design, install and commission renewable energy and energy efficient solutions, topped the bill, beating off competition from across the region to land the Business of the Year title (sponsored by Westfield Health)

A member of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, the company impressed judges with its diversification strategy and sales growth that has seen turnover rise by £5m to £6.4m this year.

In the last year, it has secured contracts for the largest on-roof solar photovoltaic scheme at distribution specialist Cold Move and the installation of multiple technologies at Wigan-based Armstrong Point – the UK's first zero energy cost business park.

Securing the Achievement in International Business Award (sponsored by DHL Express) was ChargePoint Technology, a global leader in the supply of high precision containment valves to the pharmaceutical industry to protect operators when transferring potent powders from one piece of equipment to another.

Nearly 90% of its £6.9m turnover is exported to Europe, North America and Asia, with the Venture Point firm's products sold to 46 out of the top 50 pharma groups.

The other Merseyside winners were National Museums Liverpool who won the Sustainability Award and its latest attraction, the Museum of Liverpool, who claimed victory in the Excellence in Customer Service and Marketing Campaign of the Year (sponsored by the RBS Group) categories.

The latter is the world's first national venue dedicated to telling the story of a regional city, with more than 8000m<sup>2</sup> of public space and access to 6000 objects.

Its ability to combine unrivalled customer experience with a high profile advertising and PR campaign badged "Made in Liverpool" helped it attract more than 1.2m visitors in the last 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.

The four Liverpool organisations will now represent the North West in their respective categories in the Grand Final, with the chance to win £25,000 (courtesy of the RBS Group) and the title of “Outstanding Business Achievement”.

Other successful companies in the region include:

- Web Applications UK’s Craig Dean (Entrepreneur of the Year)
- Trafford Centre Limited (Commitment to People Development)

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](http://www.chamberawards.co.uk)**

**ENDS**

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**Notes to Editors**

**Breakdown on the other winners:**

**ChargePoint Technology (Achievement in International Business)** – The company is a global specialist in the supply of high precision containment valves to the pharmaceutical industry to protect operators when transferring potent powders from one piece of equipment to another.

Nearly 90% of its £6.9m turnover is exported to Europe, North America and Asia, with the firm's products sold to 46 out of the top 50 pharma groups.

**Trafford Centre (Commitment to People Development)** – The Trafford Centre is the UK's largest shopping, dining and leisure destination, with more than 200 stores and 60 restaurants, cafes and bars.

It has developed and rolled-out 'The Trafford Centre Way', a world class training programme to improve employee development and customer service across all of its staff and managers.

This has resulted in a host of benefits, with a 17% reduction in the number of complaints last year, 90% customer satisfaction and accreditation to the Investors in People Gold Award.

**Craig Dean (Entrepreneur of the Year)** – The Oldham businessman has played an influential role in a record-breaking year for Web Applications UK, securing major new contracts with blue chip clients, such as Wyndham Worldwide, the National Trust and the Hoseasons Group.

Under his dynamic leadership, the company is currently looking at global expansion, with the launch of Web Applications US and the opening of an office in Colorado later this year.

### **About the British Chambers of Commerce**

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)**