



Embargoed until 1st October 2012

Liverpool renewable energy specialist claims North West ‘Business of the Year’ prize at the Chamber Awards 2012

A Liverpool ‘green technology’ specialist has secured a prestigious achievement for the City after it was announced as the Chamber Awards 2012’s Business of the Year (sponsored by Westfield Health) for the North West.

Eco Environments, which design, install and commission renewable energy and energy efficient solutions, beat off competition from across the region after impressing judges with its diversification strategy and sales growth that has seen turnover rise by £5m to £6.4m this year.

A member of Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, the company employs 47 people at its Wellington Business Park site and works across commercial, construction, domestic and the public sector.

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.

There were five other winners from the North West, including a manufacturer of containment valves to protect pharmaceutical operators, the UK’s largest shopping dining and leisure destination and an entrepreneur who is taking a software specialist for the travel industry international.

The full list of Award winners includes:

- ChargePoint Technology (Achievement in International Business)
- Museum of Liverpool (Excellence in Customer Service and Marketing Campaign of the Year)
- National Museums Liverpool (Sustainability Award)
- Trafford Centre (Commitment to People Development)
- Web Applications UK’s Craig Dean (Entrepreneur 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.

National Museums Liverpool were also celebrating after securing three awards with the Group being recognised for its eco-friendly performance in the Sustainability Category and its latest attraction, Museum of Liverpool (MoL), picking up Excellence in Customer Service and Marketing Campaign of the Year (sponsored by the RBS Group)

The latter is the world’s first national venue dedicated to telling the story of a regional city, with more than 8000m² 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.

Museum of Liverpool, along with the five other winners, will now represent the North West in their respective categories in the Grand Final, with the chance to win £25,000 and the title of “Outstanding Business Achievement” that is sponsored by 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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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.

National Museums Liverpool (Sustainability Award) – NML is a group of eight museums and galleries based on Merseyside that attract 3.2m visitors from all over the world.

The not for profit organisation is continually working towards minimising carbon emissions through energy management, awareness and technology, maximising recycled materials and reducing water consumption by 7% by 2017.

In 2011, National Museums Liverpool came joint first in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Performance League Table, which featured 2104 participants.

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