



Embargoed until 1st October 2012

Aberdeenshire trio take the honours at Chamber Awards 2012

An eco-friendly hair salon, a gas turbine specialist and a leading provider of catering and facilities management services to the offshore oil and gas sector were amongst the main winners at the Chamber Awards 2012's Scotland heats.

Elan Hair Design, Entier and Alba Power beat off competition from across the country to secure the Sustainability, Commitment to People Development (sponsored by Acua Limited) and Excellence in Customer Service titles.

They will all go forward to represent Scotland in the British Finals and are in with a chance of winning the top £25,000 cash prize.

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."

Elan Hair Design, a member of the Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, has invested £250,000 in transforming its Inverurie premises into what is believed to be the UK's most eco-friendly hair salon.

This commitment has seen it implement a number of measures to save energy, reduce waste and increase the 'feel good' factor of using hairdressing and beauty treatments that leave a positive effect on the environment.

It has seen the business purchase carbon-zero furniture, install PV panels to generate electricity and adopt LED lighting to reduce electricity usage.

Going green has been a wise decision, with Elan Hair Design reporting a 20% increase in turnover and the possibility of more new jobs to add to its existing 14-strong workforce.

Entier Ltd was successful in the Commitment to People Development category, impressing judges with the competence assurance process it uses to make sure all 435 staff possess the skills and practical experience needed to carry out their roles effectively.

The company, which provides catering and facilities management services to the offshore oil and gas sector, also operates a positive personal development policy that looks to offer genuine career progression by promoting from within.

Having a flexible and motivated workforce will be key for Entier, as it looks to build on a projected £26m turnover by diversifying its core offer to include heli-admin and medics.

The final winner from Aberdeen was Alba Power Ltd, who secured the Excellence in Customer Service Award.

Seen as one of the UK's leading Rolls-Royce aero-derivative gas turbine specialists, the company has grown from a standing start in 2000 into a world leader set to turnover £14m this year looking after 140 turbines across 16 countries.

At the heart of its success has been its ability to offer exceptional service to its customers, who expect reliability and speed of response.

With this in mind, Alba Power has a record of completing 100 turbine overhauls with zero claims and 500,000+ cumulative overhaul running hours.

National Final

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.

Elan Hair Design, Entier and Alba Power are joined by three other winners from Scotland, who will go forward and compete for the national titles in their respective categories. All will have a chance to win 'Outstanding Business Achievement' and a £25,000 cash prize, courtesy of the RBS Group.

Other successful companies include:

- Ayr College (Marketing Campaign of the Year)
- The Great Turf Company (Business of the Year, Achievement in International Business and Most Promising New Business)
- Vegware (Excellence in Innovation)

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

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**