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London company enjoys Chamber Awards success

An employee benefits solution provider is proving that 'Business is Good for Britain' after revolutionising the way the sector operates.

Thomsons Online Benefits beat off challengers from across the South of England to secure the Excellence in Innovation Award (sponsored by Dell), impressing judges with its vision to take the benefits sector from manual and paper-based processes to an online platform.

It was an audacious aim from founders Michael Whitfield and Chris Bruce, but one that has paid off, with the business now helping organisations, such as Apple, Deutsche Bank and JustGiving, to design, administer and manage the very best schemes for their employees.

Innovation has always been at the forefront of the duo's thinking and its latest advancement - 'Darwin' - has captured a number of sector 'firsts'.
The bespoke benefits technology platform provides:

- A dashboard to help decision makers retrieve, compare and share info
- A control centre that features powerful tools to manage and report on benefits
- A reward centre that is the most engaging, informative and simple-to-use employee benefits portal in the world
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Boosted by this thinking, 280 people are now working across Thomsons offices in London, Romania and Singapore and turnover is set to peak at £34m by end of 2012. 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.

Thomsons Online Benefits, who is a member of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is one of nine regional winners in the South of England, who will now 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 in the region include:

- Acumen Business Law's Penina Shepherd (Entrepreneur of the Year)
- Carswell Gould (Marketing Campaign of the Year)
- HCR Group (Sustainability Award)
- Jacksons Fencing (Business of the Year)
- Minimise Ltd (Most Promising New Business)
- MPR IT Solutions (Commitment to People Development)
- Nova IT Solutions (Excellence in Customer Service)
- Quorum Technologies (Achievement in International Business)

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**