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South Wales trio take the honours at Chamber Awards 2012

A home automation specialist, a global leader in temperature controlled pharmaceutical services and a social enterprise that helps offenders back into work were amongst the main winners at the Chamber Awards 2012's Welsh heats.

Smarta Technology, Biotech Services International and n-ergy's Donna Turner-Kot beat off competition from across the country to secure the Excellence in Innovation (sponsored by Dell), Achievement in International Business (sponsored by DHL Express) and Entrepreneur of the Year titles respectively.

They will all go forward to represent Wales 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."

Smarta Technology, who is a member of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, offers a comprehensive range of smart home installation services, including lighting control, heating control, smart security, home cinema installation, multi room audio and office automation.

Formed in 2009 by entrepreneur Mark Wray, the company holds an exclusive license to install leading automation software Control4 and currently works with customers including homeowners, property developers, construction businesses, architects and retailers.

It has recently invested £150,000 into a new showroom and moved to a larger head office in Cardiff to reinforce its market share in Wales. If everything goes to plan, Smarta Technology is set to turnover more than £1m in 2013

Biotech Services was successful in the Achievement in International Business category, impressing judges with its ability to grow turnover by 517% in the last five years and increasing exports to 95% of all sales.

The company is recognised as a global leader in temperature controlled pharmaceutical services, with its client base ranging from virtual companies to small, medium and large pharma groups with outsourcing requirements.

Located from its facility in Bridgend, it provides QP and GMP consultancy, clinical supplies, GMP temperature controlled storage, global logistics and advanced therapeutic medicinal products.

The final winner from South Wales was 'Entrepreneur of the Year' Donna Turner-Kot, who has helped drive n-ergy into a £3.2m business that helps rehabilitate offenders back into society.

The social enterprise delivers vocational training to people in custodial establishments before helping them secure employment on their release.

It currently employs 63 people and has a portfolio of activity that covers Wales, the South West, East and West Midlands, Yorkshire and Humber, the North West and soon to be the South East and Scotland.

The aim going forward is for n-ergy to be in a position to secure employment for a minimum of 80 ex-offenders each year.

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.

Smarta Technology, Biotech Services International and Donna Turner-Kot are joined by four other winners from Wales, 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:

- Anthony A Davies (Sustainability Award)
- Celtic Quest Coasteering (Marketing Campaign of the Year)
- Wolfestone Translation (Business of the Year and 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**

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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**