



Embargoed until 1st October 2012

Birmingham trio pick up Chamber Awards

A world leading car manufacturer, a producer of fine Indian wines and a specialist in school messaging systems were amongst the main winners at the Chamber Awards 2012's West Midlands' heats.

Jaguar Land Rover, Soul Tree Wines and the Contact Group beat off competition from across the region to secure the Commitment to People Development (sponsored by Acua Limited), Most Promising New Business (sponsored by BT Business) and Excellence in Innovation (sponsored by Dell) titles.

They will all go forward to represent the area in the National 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."

Over 1000 operators have trained to a nationally recognised qualification as part of Jaguar Land Rover's 'Solihull Vision' to drive employee skills.

The approach involves greater communication, completion of a detailed 'skills needs analysis' and structured involvement of training providers - all geared towards ensuring the Lode Lane plant can cope with multiple new vehicle launches in 2012/13.

Soul Tree Wines were successful in the Most Promising New Business category, impressing judges for the success it has enjoyed since it launched sixteen months ago.

The firm specialises in putting Indian wines on the map, securing contracts with 250 restaurants across the South of England and the Midlands. It is also now selling into France, Germany and Ireland.

The final winner from Birmingham was the Contact Group, who provides two-way communications between schools, parents and local authorities.

During the bad weather seen this year, the company has sent more than 8.5million messages using its automatic notifications.

This success has seen it increase sales to £3m and staff numbers grow from just two people to a current 25-strong workforce.

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.

Jaguar Land Rover, Soul Tree Wines and Contact Group (all members of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Group) are joined by five other regional winners in the West Midlands, 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:

- Alumet Systems (Sustainability Award)
- Busy Bees Benefits (Marketing Campaign of the Year)
- Concept Steels (Achievement in International Business)
- Viezu's Paul Busby (Entrepreneur of the Year)
- Smith and Morris (Excellence in Customer Service Award and Business of the Year)

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**