



## TWO WORCESTER BUSINESSES IN RUNNING FOR TOP BUSINESS AWARD

Two innovative Worcester companies are in the running for a prestigious national business accolade.

Magic Whiteboard Limited was crowned the West Midlands' Most Promising New Business, sponsored by BT Business and Bosch Thermotechnology Ltd (Worcester Bosch Group) was named the regional winner of the Sustainability Award, sponsored by the British Standards Institution (BSI).

Both businesses are now finalists in their category for the UK title in the Chamber Awards hosted by the British Chambers of Commerce, which were created to celebrate the UK's most successful businesses.

John Longworth, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "The health of the UK's economy relies upon the confidence of our businesses to grow, invest and create jobs. That's why the British Chambers of Commerce has been working hard to ensure government makes good on its promises to encourage enterprise, and do everything in its power to help businesses grow.

"All the good things we want to see in society depend on business and wealth creation. These awards provide a snapshot of some of the most impressive companies from across the country. Many of these business owners are working day in day out to build upon the companies they have built from scratch, creating jobs in local communities, and contributing to the economic recovery we so desperately need. We're delighted to be able to celebrate the success of these companies through the Chamber Awards."

Since securing £100,000 in funding from Theo Paphitis and Deborah Meadon for the innovative Magic Whiteboard on Dragon's Den, MD and inventor Neil Westwood has gone on to increase the product range to include Magic Blackout Blinds, Magic Blackboards and most recently Magic Sticky Notes.

Last year the firm signed a deal with Staples to supply each of its 137 stores as well as online – a deal worth £500,000 a year.

Meanwhile Warndon-based Worcester Bosch Group, which specialises in manufacturing fuel efficient heating and hot water appliances was praised by judges for the introduction of its Zero to Landfill initiative and Carbon Footprint Project – and its aim to make all its products 100 per cent recyclable.

Rather than offsetting its carbon footprint, the company looked into ways of manufacturing its products more efficiently and tracing and accounting for every single piece of waste.

The firm also supports the National Energy Action (NEA) a fuel poverty and energy efficiency charity which is committed to improving the quality of life of low-income families.

Having won a regional award, the companies are now in the running for the national title in their category, as well as the chance to collect the **Award for Outstanding Business Achievement** – with a top prize of **£25,000** and runner up prizes of **£15,000** and **£10,000**.

There are nine categories, backed by high profile sponsors including RBS and NatWest, BT Business, BT Directories, Dell, DHL Express, the British Standards Institution (BSI), AXA PPP healthcare and Westfield Health. The national winners will be announced at a ceremony at London's Grand Connaught Rooms on November 24th 2011.

**ENDS**

**For more information call Liz Slee on 07968 411373 or email [liz@thevitalagency.co.uk](mailto:liz@thevitalagency.co.uk)**

**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](http://www.britishchambers.org.uk)**

There are nine categories in the annual Chamber Awards. Most Promising New Business, sponsored by BT Business, Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by BT Directories, Business of the Year, sponsored by Westfield Health, Innovation Through Technology, sponsored by Dell, Achievement in International Business, sponsored by DHL Express, The Sustainability Award, sponsored by the British Standards Institution (BSI), Excellence in Customer Service, sponsored by AXA PPP healthcare, Excellence in People Development, sponsored by Composite Legal Expenses and Finding New International Markets, sponsored by RBS and NatWest. The Award for Outstanding Business Achievement, sponsored by RBS and NatWest, is awarded to the overall winner, selected from any category.