



SHEFFIELD COMPANY IN RUNNING FOR TOP BUSINESS AWARD

Two Sheffield businesses will line up alongside some of the country's most successful companies as they compete for a leading UK industry award.

Future Life Wealth Management Limited (FLWML), which is based in Renishaw Hall, has been named as Yorkshire and Humberside's Most Promising New Business, sponsored by BT Business and the Office Friendly Dealer Association Ltd (OFDA), a not-for-profit organisation, has picked up the regional Sustainability Award for Yorkshire and Humberside, sponsored by the British Standards Institution (BSI).

The companies are now finalists in their categories 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."

FLWML was set up during the global financial crisis, when confidence in financial institutions was at an all time low. Since then the company has gone from strength-to-strength embracing the new Retail Distribution Review and adopting new levels of transparency and service. In its first year it exceeded its own vision to have £10m under management - with even bigger ambitions for its second year of trading.

Meanwhile OFDA resells office products to small and medium-sized businesses and the public sector, working with members to provide services that will support their business best and re-investing the profits for mutual benefit.

The company's forward-thinking So-Go-Eco programme was developed to help members improve their environmental performance but also with a view to reduce overheads and win more business.

The scheme has now been extended to allow members to deliver the programme to their own customers – helping them add value and create an innovative unique selling point..

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.

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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**

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.