

Pontypridd company in running for top business award

An innovative Pontypridd material technology firm will line up alongside some of the country's most successful companies as it competes for a top national award.

Concrete Canvas Ltd (CCL), which manufactures a unique concrete-impregnated canvas that has helped speed up some construction tasks, has picked up the Welsh award for Innovation through Technology, sponsored by Dell.

CCL was founded by engineers Peter Brewin and Will Crawford, who invented the technology during a post-graduate degree at the RCA and Imperial College.

The technology forms a thin durable fabric that hardens on hydration to form a thin durable, water and fire-proof concrete layer using 10 per cent less material. The company's market is now worth £7bn.

The Treforest-based company is now a finalist in its 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.

Speaking of CCL's award, and its nomination for the UK award for Innovation through Technology, Will Crawford said: "Despite the difficult economic climate, which has heavily affected the construction sector in particular, we've been fortunate enough to experience amazing levels of growth throughout the six years we've been in business. To have won the Welsh award for Innovation through Technology is a fantastic achievement and it's great that the team's hard work has been recognised through this accolade.

"On top of that, we feel honoured to be considered for the national award as well, and we're very much looking forward to the awards ceremony on the 24th."

All Chamber members were eligible for the awards and CCL, which is a member of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, has been selected as an example of the best in Wales.

Having won a regional award, CCL is now in the running for the national title in its 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.

It has the chance to follow in the footsteps of Newport-based Abriox Limited which, after winning last year's Welsh Business of the Year award, went on to win UK Business of the Year at the National Chamber awards 2010 ceremony, as well as the coveted 'winner of winners' Outstanding Business Achievement award.

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."