



Welsh companies and entrepreneur in running for top business awards

Innovative companies from across Wales and a Welsh entrepreneur will line up alongside some of the country's most successful counterparts as they compete for leading national awards.

Smart Solutions Recruitment, Smarta Technology, Concrete Canvas Ltd (CCL) and entrepreneur James Norvill, were 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.

Newport-headquartered Smart Solutions Recruitment is through to the UK final after being named Wales' Business of the Year, an award sponsored by Westfield Health. As Wales' fastest-growing business in 2010, Smart Solutions experienced 3,400% growth between 2008 and 2010. It runs its Welsh division through its six service centres in South Wales – with an additional 17 sites across Britain.

Smarta won the Most Promising New Business in Wales, sponsored by BT Business. The Cardiff-based business provides a range of state-of-the-art home-automation technology, including equipment that can allow users to channel music through all rooms in a home, or turn a thermostat down from Thailand.

Pontypridd-based 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.

Newport Entrepreneur, James Norvill, has won Wales' Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by BT Directories, due to the success of his four very different businesses.

James Norvill Property is the property development arm of his empire; GD Environmental a national waste management player; Junk for Joy, a new business venture providing junk collection; and finally Simply Panels Limited, a company retailing redundant or second grade panels at discounted prices.

All Chamber members were eligible for the awards and these regional finalists, who are all members of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, have been selected as examples of the best in Wales.

Having won the regional awards, the four are now competing for the national title in their categories, as well as the chance to collect the Award for Outstanding Business Achievement – with a top prize of £25,000 and runners up prizes of £15,000 and £10,000.

All have 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."

The national winners will be announced at a ceremony at London's Grand Connaught Rooms on November 24th 2011 and the award goes to.....Concrete Canvass Ltd (CCL)