



Entries open for Scotland's leading green business awards

The ninth annual Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards 2008 are to be launched today (Wednesday 12 March) at the Scottish Parliament.

VIBES is Scotland's leading environmental awards scheme and aims to recognise businesses of all sizes and sectors employing environmental best practice in their daily activity while also making savings to their bottom line.

Deputy Convener of the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee, John Scott MSP will launch VIBES. The event will also be attended by: Minister for the Environment Michael Russell MSP; SEPA chairman David Sigsworth and VIBES chair Gillian Bruce, as well as past winners.

Minister for Environment, Michael Russell commented: "Environmentally friendly businesses, such as those recognised by the VIBES awards, have seized the opportunity to turn environmental commitment into action to deliver economic success. VIBES is about rewarding excellence and sharing the lessons learnt from good practice in Scottish business.

"The Scottish Government recognises and encourages such green innovation in businesses. The role which business can play will be essential in meeting our ambitious aims to reduce Scotland's climate change emissions by 50 per cent by 2050 and to move towards a zero waste society."

SEPA chairman David Sigsworth said: "Every year VIBES entrants become better and better – the fact we are seeing this constant improvement shows that environmental issues are becoming increasingly important for a wide range of industries.

"I would encourage all businesses to enter VIBES – it's free to enter and the forms are easy to fill out. Winning a VIBES award not only helps businesses boast about their own green credentials but also shows that they really are making a positive contribution to the well-being of Scotland."

In addition, two previous VIBES winners, Glasgow's Dry Lube Ltd and Subsea 7's Serpent project from Aberdeen, will today find out if they have been selected as UK finalists in the European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE).

VIBES is the only Scottish award scheme to feed directly into the European awards and the companies will find out if they have made it through to the final at an event in the Carlton Hotel in Edinburgh.

VIBES is managed by a partnership of organisations including the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), the Scottish Government, the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland and CBI Scotland, and the scheme is sponsored by previous winner Chivas Brothers – Pernod Ricard.

Businesses and organisations can obtain an application form by contacting Linsey McGillivray, VIBES Awards co-ordinator on 01896 754 797 or visiting the awards website: www.vibes.org.uk.

The closing date for entries is 18 July 2008. Entries are assessed on the application form and site visits. Winners will be announced at a prestigious award ceremony in December.

The 2007 winners were:

- Large company (more than 250 employees) – Total E&P UK Ltd: an oil and gas company based in **St Fergus, Aberdeenshire**.
- Medium company (50-250 employees) – Emtelle UK Ltd: provider of ducted network and blown fibre solutions based in **Hawick**, in the Borders.
- Small company (fewer than 50 staff) – Cream O’Galloway Dairy: a family-run, luxury ice-cream manufacturer from Castle Douglas, **Dumfries and Galloway**.

John Fender, Safety, Health and Environment Specialist from VIBES sponsor Chivas Brothers – Pernod Ricard said: "Having previously won a VIBES award ourselves, we firmly believe in the importance of fostering a positive approach to managing our environment and would highly recommend entering the VIBES awards to any business where the environment is paramount to its success. It’s not just the business that benefits when the environment is managed."

Ends

12 March 2008

Issued on behalf of the VIBES Steering Group by Weber Shandwick. For further information please contact Hayley Ford on 0141 333 0557 / 07770 886 950. E-mail: hford@webershandwick.com. Press pictures from the launch event will be available by email on Thursday 13 March 2008 – please contact Hayley for further information.

Notes for Editors

About VIBES

Businesses from any sector or any type located in Scotland are encouraged to apply for a VIBES award. There are four categories with each category having a small (less than 50 employees, medium (between 50 and 250 employees) and large (more than 250 employees) winner.

The four categories are as follows:

- VIBES management award 2008
- VIBES product/service award 2008
- VIBES process award 2008
- VIBES international co-operation award 2008

The VIBES competition is supported and managed by a partnership of organisations in Scotland:

- CBI Scotland
- Envirowise
- Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland
- Forward Scotland
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- Environmental Protection UK Ltd
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Government
- Business Stream
- Scottish Enterprise
- The Energy Saving Trust

For more information on VIBES and past winners, please visit www.vibes.org.uk

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