

ONE WEEK LEFT TO FIND INVERNESS'S LEADING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

--- Deadline approaches for VIBES 2007 ---

Only one week remains for Inverness's top environmentally-friendly businesses to enter Scotland's leading environmental awards – Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) 2007 – applications should be completed by 5pm Friday 29 June 2007.

The awards are free to enter and open to all Inverness-based businesses or organisations across Scotland who brings benefits to their bottom line through improvements to environmental performance. VIBES aims to recognise and reward these achievements and is open to Scottish organisations of all sizes.

Now in their eighth year, the VIBES Awards are managed by a partnership of organisations including the Scottish Executive, the Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland and CBI Scotland.

VIBES chairman Barry Greig said: "Although there's only one week left for Scottish businesses to enter VIBES there is still plenty of time for them to do so – it's free to enter, there's only one form to fill in and you can enter either online or by post – we even have an experienced co-ordinator on hand to answer all your last minute questions.

"By winning a VIBES award, businesses are highlighting their green credentials and their commitment to the environment which is becoming of increasing importance among Scottish businesses and organisations."

Businesses and organisations can seek further information or obtain an application form by contacting VIBES co-ordinator Linsey McGillivray on 01896 754797 or visiting the awards website: www.vibes.org.uk. Entries are assessed on the application form and site visits. The finalists are announced in November.

Last year's National Winners were:

- Large Company category – ScottishPower Renewables – Black Law windfarm (Lanarkshire): the largest windfarm in the UK.
- Medium Company category – Taypack Potatoes Ltd (Inchtute, Perthshire): a potato distributor which supplies to supermarkets and wholesale customers all over Europe and Scandinavia.

- Small Company category – Aurora Environmental Ltd (Orkney): an independently owned environmental consultancy providing services to marine, coastal and island industries.

The winners of VIBES are eligible to enter the European Business Environment Awards. These awards have been running since 1987 and attract around 200 entries per year from the cream of Europe's most environmentally positive businesses. VIBES is the only award scheme in Scotland that feeds in to these prestigious European awards.

The VIBES Awards are sponsored by Rolls-Royce Inchinnan and Chivas Brothers – Pernod Ricard, both previous national winners.

Ends

22 June 2007

Issued on behalf of the VIBES partners by Weber Shandwick. For further information please contact either David Sawyer on 0141 333 0557 / 07770 886 923 or via email at dsawyer@webershandwick.com **Press pics available from David Sawyer.**

Notes for Editors

- Businesses from any sector or any type located in Scotland are encouraged to apply for a VIBES award. There are three categories:
 - Businesses with more than 250 employees (Large)
 - Businesses with between 50 and 250 employees (Medium)
 - Businesses with less than 50 employees (Small)
- 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
 - National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection (NSCA)
 - Scottish Enterprise
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Scottish Executive
 - Scottish Water Business Stream
- For more information on VIBES, please visit www.vibes.org.uk

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