

SEARCH ON FOR SCOTLAND'S LEADING ECO-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

--- VIBES Awards 2007 Launched ---

The search is on for Scotland's top environmentally-friendly businesses after the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards 2007 were officially launched today (Wednesday 7 February) at the Scottish Energy and Environment Conference in Glasgow.

The awards are open to any business and organisation across Scotland that brings benefits to its bottom line through improvements to environmental performance. Aiming to recognise and reward these achievements, VIBES is open to Scottish organisations of all sizes. The launch is set to take place at Glasgow's city centre Hilton hotel.

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.

The awards were launched by Scottish Executive Sustainable Development Manager and chair of the VIBES Awards, Barry Greig. He said: "With waste and energy costs on the rise and how a company treats the environment becoming a key element in consumers' purchasing decisions, it is now more important than ever before for businesses to be aware of their environmental impact.

"The VIBES Awards are a great incentive for companies to demonstrate and shout about their environmental commitment: they encourage Scottish businesses to see the opportunities to cut waste, energy and water costs by becoming more responsible."

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 29 June 2007. Entries are assessed on the application form and site visits. Regional Winners 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 (Inchture, 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

Keith Anderson, Renewables and Major Projects Director at ScottishPower Renewables said: "We were absolutely delighted to receive the VIBES award in recognition of our efforts to go above and beyond standard practice in our windfarm developments. ScottishPower's reputation as a responsible windfarm developer was greatly enhanced by winning this award."

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

John Fender, Safety, Health and Environment Specialist of Chivas Brothers – Pernod Ricard said: "As a previous VIBES winner, our company strongly believes that a commitment to the environment means good business."

Ian Rush, Head of Health Safety and Environment at Rolls-Royce Inchinnan, said: "Rolls-Royce is pleased to be a sponsor of the VIBES awards, a scheme that promotes environmental best practice in Scotland.

Ends

7 February 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 9 23 or via email: dsawyer@webershandwick.com

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
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- The European Business Environment 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.
 - For more information on VIBES, please visit www.vibes.org.uk

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