



Aberdeen's top environmentally-friendly businesses announced

Aberdeen's most environmentally-friendly businesses will be named at a prestigious awards ceremony taking place in Glasgow today (Wednesday 5 December).

The **St Fergus** site of Total E&P UK Ltd has beaten off stiff competition from companies of all sizes across Scotland to be crowned Large Company (more than 250 employees) winner at the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards, to be unveiled today at Glasgow's Radisson SAS hotel.

In addition, judges named **Aberdeenshire's** family-run luxury ice cream manufacturer, Mackie's of Scotland as a medium-sized company (50-250 employees) finalist.

In all, ten companies from across Scotland were awarded finalist prizes while two companies – REpower and Solway Recycling – were awarded special prizes for outstanding service.

VIBES chair Gillian Bruce, commented: "All of the VIBES finalists showed fantastic commitment to reducing their environmental impact and involving staff and the wider community in their initiatives. The VIBES judges were impressed by the winners' outstanding achievement – both in terms of their business savings and their environmental improvements."

Total E&P UK Ltd – winner of the large company award – will receive the accolade for ensuring environmental considerations are central to all business decisions and staff training. Judges were also impressed by Total's constant and extensive onsite and offsite monitoring which have resulted in considerable savings to the environment and to its bottom-line.

Nicolas Carles, terminal manager at St Fergus Total E&P UK Ltd commented: "At St Fergus everyone plays a role in caring for the environment and so it's on behalf of all employees at the terminal that I accept this award. Our environmental initiatives are integral to our activities, and we are delighted that our efforts have been recognised by VIBES."

Mackie's of Scotland impressed the judges with its immense financial and environmental savings; its wind turbines generate all of its energy needs, with the surplus being sold

back to Good Energy. Mackie's also received the accolade for its zero water waste policy and extensive best farm practices.

Mac Mackie, managing director of Mackie's, commented: "Taking care of our environment makes good sense for the planet, but also makes good financial and marketing sense. For example, Mackie's three wind turbines provide enough energy to power the whole business – with enough surplus for about 1000 homes. The VIBES award will be celebrated with staff as recognition of our effort to date, and is good encouragement to continue to improve. It is particularly interesting to see the ideas used by the other short listed companies."

Now in its eighth year, VIBES recognises and rewards the efforts of Scottish businesses to become more efficient and competitive through improving environmental performance and benefiting a company's bottom-line.

By winning a VIBES award, finalists are eligible to enter the European Environmental Awards in 2008 which 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 into these prestigious European awards.

The three overall winners announced at the ceremony are:

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

Those awards details in full. The large company finalists are:

- Robert Wiseman Dairies (East Kilbride)
- BAE Systems Surface Fleet Solutions (Glasgow)
- Apex International hotel (Edinburgh)
- Radisson SAS hotel (Edinburgh)

The medium company finalists are:

- Gas Call Services Ltd (Glasgow)
- Mackie's of Scotland (Aberdeenshire)

The small company finalists are:

- Morton of Pitmilley (St Andrews)
- Rabbie's Trail Burners Ltd (Edinburgh)
- Scottish Seabird Centre (North Berwick)
- Press Mains Farm (Coldingham)

In addition special Service Awards will be given to two companies the VIBES judges felt provide outstanding service. Winners are as follows:

- REpower UK Ltd: a leading manufacturer of wind turbines whose UK headquarters are based in Edinburgh.
- Solway Recycling Limited: the one-stop recycling service for farmers from Dumfries and Galloway.

Ends

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Issued on behalf of the VIBES Steering Group by Weber Shandwick. For further information please contact Hayley Ford or David Sawyer on 0141 333 0557 / 07770 886 950/ 07770 886 923. E-mail: hford@webershandwick.com / dsawyer@webershandwick.com

Press pictures of all winners are available by email. Contact Hayley Ford on 0141 333 0557.

A media invite was issued on Monday 3 December. Photographers and reporters are cordially invited to attend a photocall/media briefing at 3.15pm at the Radisson Hotel in Glasgow on Wednesday 5 December.

Notes for Editors

Case studies of all Scottish winners are available via e-mail. Please contact Hayley Ford on 0141 333 0557.

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
 - Environmental Protection UK Ltd
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency
 - Scottish Government
 - Scottish Water Business Stream
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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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