



The Borders' top environmentally-friendly business announced

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

Hawick-based Emtelle UK Ltd has beaten off stiff competition from companies across Scotland to be crowned medium company (50-250 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 crowned **Coldingham's** Press Mains Farm a finalist for its 1200-acre beef farm and holiday cottages.

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."

Emtelle UK Ltd impressed the VIBES judges with its attitude towards involving staff in environmental initiatives, and for its developments towards making products as environmentally friendly and recyclable as possible.

Mohand Benhaddad, safety, health and environment manager with Emtelle UK Ltd commented: "Emtelle UK takes its responsibility to the environment, the planet and future generations seriously. We do believe that good environmental management makes good business sense. And we are lucky to have a workforce who share that vision. "

Press Mains Farm impressed judges with its enthusiasm, extensive recycling and reuse of products and its significant financial investment in energy-efficient equipment in a bid to cut down on energy use.

Emma Edmondson, owner of Press Mains Farm, added: "We have enjoyed being involved with the VIBES awards. It has concentrated our minds on how we interact with the environment and has highlighted possible improvements we can make within our business."

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 – Emtelle 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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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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