



Scotland's top environmentally-friendly businesses announced

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

Three companies have beaten off stiff competition from companies across Scotland to be crowned National Winners at the Vision in Business for the Environment of Scotland (VIBES) Awards, to be unveiled today at Glasgow's Radisson SAS hotel.

- Large company (more than 250 employees) category – Total E&P UK Ltd: an oil and gas company based in **St Fergus, Aberdeenshire**.
- Medium company category (50-250 employees) – 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**.

In addition, ten companies will be awarded finalist prizes while two companies – REpower and Solway Recycling – will be awarded special prizes for outstanding service. The event is set to take place at Glasgow's Radisson SAS Hotel.

VIBES chair Gillian Bruce commented: "All of the VIBES finalists have 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 achievements – both in terms of their business savings and their environmental improvements."

Companies being honoured by VIBES come from all over Scotland ranging from an Edinburgh-based leading provider of wind turbine services to a diverse arable farm in St Andrews.

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 has resulted in considerable savings to the environment and to their 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."

In the medium-sized company category, Emtelle UK Ltd impressed judges with its attitude towards involving staff in environmental initiatives, and making its 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 our workforce on board who share that vision. "

Winner in the small company category, Cream O'Galloway Dairy, not only won the accolade for its environmentally friendly manufacturing but was also recognised for its organic farm and contribution to the local economy and community made through its visitor centre.

Wilma Finlay, managing director of Cream O' Galloway Dairy said: "The environment is fundamental to everything we do. Minimising environmental impact underpins our strategy. We believe organic farming is the future for sustainable food production; ice cream production is powered by electricity from our community wind turbine; and activities at our visitor centre explain our efforts to make a difference."

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 VIBES large company category 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 Pitmilly (St Andrews)
- Rabbie's Trail Burners Ltd (Edinburgh)
- Scottish Seabird Centre (North Berwick)
- Press Mains Farm (Coldingham)

In addition special 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 is based in Edinburgh.
- Solway Recycling Limited: the one-stop recycling service for farmers from Dumfries and Galloway.

VIBES is sponsored by past-winners Rolls-Royce Inchinnan and Chivas Brothers – Pernod Ricard.

John Fender, safety, health and environment specialist of Chivas Brothers - Pernod Ricard said: "As a previous VIBES winner, our company strongly believes that a robust commitment to the environment makes good business sense. Our congratulations go to the winners and participants who have all made a significant contribution to the future prosperity and environmental well-being of Scotland."

Ian Rush, head of health safety and environment at Rolls-Royce Inchinnan, said: "As past winners, Rolls-Royce is pleased to be a sponsor of the VIBES awards in 2007, an event that promotes environmental best practice throughout Scotland. The companies who have won awards today have demonstrated that implementing environmental improvements within the workplace can not only benefit the environment but also impact positively on their bottom line."

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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 at 11:00am. 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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