Queen's Awards Invites Entries from IT and Finance Sectors

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ACT NOW FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN QUEEN'S AWARDS

CBI Backs Call For Companies to Enter UK's Top Business Honours Scheme

Outstanding businesses from all sectors - including IT and finance - are being urged to act now for the chance to win the UK's ultimate business accolade – a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

The official "call for entries" for the 2005 Queen's Awards goes out this month. Throughout June, successful businesses across the UK will be receiving invitations to apply for an Award in any of three categories – International Trade, Innovation or Sustainable Development. The deadline for applications is midnight on 31 October 2004.

Digby Jones, Director General of the CBI, says all successful businesses, regardless of size or sector, should consider applying for an Award:

"The Queen's Awards play a vital role in championing exceptional achievements and advances in all areas of British business.   I believe the Queen's Awards for Enterprise are something all UK companies should aspire towards.   It's a marvellous scheme for encouraging and rewarding business success and best practice."

Alongside the prestige of winning and a reception at Buckingham Palace, a Queen's Award brings with it genuine business benefits – notably extensive publicity, boosts to staff morale and very often, increased business.   According to recent research amongst past winners 90% felt that winning a Queen's Award had brought their company added commercial value.

Easysoft is one company which knows all about the value of The Queen's Awards. It won an Award for Innovation in 2001. John Kos, Sales Director, comments:

"Easysoft is a fast growing, multinational organisation and winning this Award was something we thought would stand us in good stead for expansion throughout the industry, but we've been amazed at how widely The Awards are recognised throughout the world. Our strategic growth requires us to establish partnerships with major software corporations, often based in Silicon Valley and dubious about doing business with companies based overseas. The Award has given us an incredible amount of kudos and undoubtedly opened doors which previously had stayed firmly closed."

The Queen's Awards are free to enter and open to any UK-based company with two or more people. There is no set number of Awards made each year - each application is judged rigorously on its individual merits. Applications submitted up to 2 months before the deadline can be checked by The Queen's Awards Office, and if necessary, further information requested to enhance applications. Unsuccessful entrants

receive written feedback on their application, helping companies identify areas for improvement if they are to achieve a Queen's Award in the future.

To find out more about the Queen's Awards for Enterprise or to obtain an entry form, companies should visit www.queensawards.org.uk or call 0870 513 4486.

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Notes to editors

1. The Queen's Awards Emblem and other photos are available for press to download in hi-res JPEG format on the official Queen's Awards Image Archive at www.queensawards.org.uk. Alternatively please contact Charlotte Howell (see below)
2. Case studies on winners from any sector are available from Highlight PR

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