

BCC Launches Chamber Business Awards at London Stock Exchange

The British Chambers today launches the Chamber Business Awards at the London Stock Exchange.

13 March 2017

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) has today launched its flagship Chamber Business Awards at London Stock Exchange. Scientifica, last year's winner of the 'Business of the Year' award based in Sussex, had the honour of opening trading at London Stock Exchange, accompanied by Nus Ghani, Conservative MP for Wealden, and Ana Christie, Chief Executive of Sussex Chambers of Commerce.

The prestigious competition is one of the showpiece events in the business calendar, recognising and promoting the best of British business through a series of regional heats, culminating in a Gala Awards Dinner, which will take place at the Brewery, London on 30 November.

Entries open today and will run until Friday 30 June. Next year's winners of the Business of the Year award will have the same chance to open the market at London Stock Exchange as a prize, a rare opportunity for a private business.

Companies can enter nine categories, covering exports, small business, people development, technology, high-growth, customer service, partnerships with the education sector, social media, and health and wellbeing.

Francis Martin, President of the British Chambers of Commerce said:

"Businesses are the driving force of the UK economy, creating jobs, growth and prosperity, and helping Britain to maintain its reputation internationally. This is exactly why it is important for us to recognise and celebrate the contribution they make to their local communities and the wider economy.

"The broad spread of categories in the Chamber Business Awards reflects both the diversity of industries and skills of British firms, and the range of achievements and projects that they have been involved with.

"Each time I visit Chamber member businesses, it is inspiring to see so many companies finding innovative ways to grow their business in every corner of the UK. The Awards acknowledge the relentless efforts of these businesses and their talented employees."

Adrian Corbin of Scientifica, Winner of the 'Business of the Year' award last year, said:

“Everyone at Scientifica is incredibly proud that the company won the British Chambers of Commerce Business of the Year. It is an enormous achievement and a fitting testimony to all the hard work that has gone into creating such a great company.

“We are at the forefront of high-tech British manufacturing, exporting our products to more than forty countries worldwide. We employ a highly-educated and international workforce who are all committed to producing innovative products to help further neuroscience research, and the winning of this award will undoubtedly help us expand into even more markets around the world.”

Umerah Akram, Head of ELITE UK, said:

“Ensuring the best of Britain’s innovative, imaginative and inspiring businesses can flourish in the UK is a priority for London Stock Exchange Group which is why we are proud to support the BCC Chamber Business Awards. Through ELITE, our unique business support and capital raising programme, we are creating a dynamic financial and entrepreneurial ecosystem, promoting the right type of funding for ambitious businesses at every stage of their growth journey.”

Ends

Notes to editors:

The British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) sits at the heart of a powerful network of 52 Accredited Chambers of Commerce across the UK, representing thousands of businesses of all sizes and within all sectors. Our Global Business Network connects exporters with nearly 40 markets around the world. For more information, visit: www.britishchambers.org.uk

Media contacts:

Allan Williams – Senior Press Manager

020 7654 5812 / 07920583381

Orla Hennessy – Press and Communications Officer

020 7654 5813 / 07825746812

[Press release: Event to mark Perry Barr & Witton flood scheme milestone](#)

On Friday 10 March 2017, the Environment Agency held a public event to mark

the end of the first phase of works to help reduce the risk of flooding in Perry Barr and Witton.

This is a key milestone in the £28 million, 2 phased flood risk management scheme that has been developed in partnership with Birmingham City Council and Sandwell Metropolitan Council. Once complete, the scheme will help protect approximately 1,400 properties from flooding from the River Tame.

The completed first phase involved rebuilding existing flood walls along Brookvale Road and constructing new walls alongside Atlas Industrial Estate and Tame Road. Channel improvements have also been carried out to help the river flow more quickly through the area.

Ian Jones, Environment Agency Flood Risk Manager said:

We're delighted for the residents and businesses that the work on the first phase has been completed. Today's event is a great opportunity for partners and the community to come together and mark this important occasion.

The next phase of the scheme involves increasing the existing flood storage area at Sandwell Valley Park. The site at Forge Mill Lake will see the construction of a new embankment to help control flows down the river during periods of high flow. A planning application is scheduled to be submitted in May this year with construction planned for early 2018.

More information on the scheme is available on the Perry Barr and Wittion flood scheme [GOV.UK page](#)

Correspondence: Industrial Strategy: important questions to address

In this letter to the Prime Minister, CST considers the questions that the industrial strategy should address.

The letter makes the case for putting all sciences, engineering, technology and design at the heart of the UK economy and industrial strategy.

It uses four lenses to explain how the industrial strategy can drive productivity and growth, and address important societal challenges. It identifies seven technology areas that the UK could focus on.

The paper that accompanies this letter provides further information on CST's views and is structured around the same four lenses.

[We need concrete measures now to improve mental health and restore safety in our prisons – Yasmin Qureshi](#)

Labour's Shadow Justice Minister, Yasmin Qureshi MP, responding to The Royal College of Psychiatrists' warning that psychiatric care in prisons is at breaking point, **said:**

"Prison suicides in 2016 were at the highest level ever recorded. Incidents of self-harm are also on the increase. This is hardly surprising given that the psychiatrists who work in prisons feel unable to do their job. Poor mental health, combined with a lack of prison staff, is endangering inmates, officers, and healthcare professionals. Friday's fire at Guys Marsh attests to the acute nature of the crisis.

"The Justice Secretary must recognise that there is nothing in the Prisons and Courts Bill to deal with this worsening situation. We need concrete measures now to improve mental health and restore safety in our prisons."

[Family planning commission 'satisfied' with birth rate](#)

China's second-child policy pushed the fertility rate up to more than 1.7 last year, an increase from between 1.5 and 1.6 between 2000 and 2015, Wang Pei'an, deputy minister in charge of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, told a news conference on Saturday.

More than 18.4 million babies were born in China last year, 2 million more than the annual number of new births for the previous five years, and the highest number since 2000, Wang said.

The fertility rate is the average number of children a woman gives birth to in her lifetime.

"The second-child policy has produced satisfactory results," Wang said. "They totally met our expectations."

More than 90 million couples became eligible to have a second child under the

new policy, but only 28 percent of them are expected to have a second baby due to old age or unwillingness to have a bigger family, he said.

China is not lacking in population and even by the end of the century China's population will remain at more than 1.1 billion, Wang said.