



Business of the Year: hard fought, hard won

IT is arguably the top category of the entire year.

And this year it was so close to call that the shortlist had to be extended from the usual six to 12.

From the might of Gunwharf Quays and BAE Systems to Nevada Music and face cream retailer Venkman Industries, the category was a true cross section of the region's range of business success.

Engineering firm Amdale and signage company Key2 both scooped Highly Commended. Amdale director Martin Koerner said: 'The team at Amdale have worked hard for a long time, and it's reward for all the hard work they've put in,' while Key2

Award sponsored by



boss Mike Keating said he was 'absolutely over the moon.'

Gunwharf Quays manager Sean Sweeney was next up to collect Runner Up, and thanked his staff for their efforts through a very hard year.

But the winner was family firm Lucketts Travel, which saw turnover grow by one third last year - and profits double.

Company chairman David Lockett, said: 'I'm in the twilight of my years as



TRIUMPH: The Lucketts Travel team receive their award from Rob Marchant, chairman of Portsmouth Property Association

Picture: Malcolm Wells (100287-6315)

chairman, and we have gone from one coach in 1976 to 75 coaches.

'It's a fantastic night. I think everyone involved in this knows its all about Portsmouth and the surrounding districts, and I feel everyone was pushing for excellence.'

Rob Marchant, head of the Portsmouth Property Association

which sponsors the category, was full of praise for all who came forward.

'It's easy to get wrapped up in doom and gloom,' he said. 'But when you look at the whole stack of companies in Portsmouth and the surrounding area that are doing so well, it gives you a lot of hope that Portsmouth and

south east Hampshire have a fantastic future whatever the global economy throws at us.

'It gives a great deal of hope and optimism. You can't help but feel the doom and gloom, but when you come to an event like this and see the success on our doorstep, you go to work the next day with a spring in your step.'

BUSINESS of the year

Winner: Lucketts Travel, based in Broadcut, Fareham
Runner-up: Gunwharf Quays, based in Portsea
Highly commended: joint award, to Key2 Group from Fitzherbert Road, Farlington, and Amdale from Limerline Road, Hilsea

Shortlisted entries

- BAE Systems Surface Ships
- Harrington Homes
- Key2 Group
- Nevada Music
- Paper Mountain
- Taylor Made Computer Solutions
- Trafalgar Wharf
- Venkman Industries

Purpose: To recognise a business for outstanding achievements in profitability, growth, turnover, new products or inventions or a change of fortunes through hard work

Criteria: The judges examined the financial performance of entrants as well as the inventiveness of the company and the firm's recent past to determine the quality of the entrants.

It gives hope that Portsmouth and south east Hampshire have a fantastic future

Rob Marchant



Key2 Group

Plastics • Displays • Signs • Graphics

Plastic Fabrication • Plastics Supply

Signage • Graphics • Banners

Grand Format Printing • Visual Marketing

Bespoke Display • Point of Sale

Photography • Acrylic Display • Shopfronts

Retail Merchandisers • Vinyls

Vacuum Forming • CNC Routing

and much, much more....

HIGHLY COMMENDED
Business of the Year 2010

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