



Media Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 23:30 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

Please observe this strict embargo, and we ask that you do not contact ANY of the winners or finalists in advance

Thursday, September 24, 2015

Jimmy Milne honoured at Northern Star Business Awards

Balmoral's chairman and managing director James Milne CBE was handed a lifetime achievement award at tonight's Northern Star Business Awards for his outstanding contribution to the region.

Mr Milne established the Balmoral Group in 1980 with just five employees designing and manufacturing glass reinforced plastic products.

Today, the privately owned company is one of the North-east's most successful businesses which employs around 600 people and provides design and manufacturing solutions to the global subsea, energy, civil and environmental engineering sectors.

Organised by Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce and now in their twelfth year, the Northern Star Business Awards recognise companies in the North-east for their exceptional accomplishments across a range of fields from energy to innovation, people development to customer service.

Thirty-nine finalists joined the 750 guests at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, all eager to find out who would lift the award in each of the 14 award categories.

Winner of one of the top awards on the evening was CHC Helicopter West North Sea, which received the Overall Business of the Year award.

The company includes bases in Aberdeen, Shetland, Humberside and Norwich.

From Aberdeen it carries 110,000 people on more than 19,000 offshore flights a year and of its 70 global bases in 30 countries, Aberdeen Heliport is its busiest.

It makes a significant difference to its sector having conceived and developed the world-leading annual CHC Safety and Quality Summit, as part of its commitment to safety, which is now recognised as the world's premier helicopter safety conference.

Chief executive of the Chamber Robert Collier said, “We are proud of the efforts of members and the contribution they make to the robust economy of our region, our enviable quality of life, and its bright future.

“The evening is an opportunity to take stock of the talent and success that abounds here in the City and Shire, and celebrate their achievements in keeping us at the heart of a prosperous country.”

The winners in the 14 categories were as follows:

- Lifetime Achievement
 - James Milne, Balmoral Group
- Achievement in International Business
 - Equalizer International
- Commitment to Innovative Use of Research & Development
 - N-Sea
- Commitment to People Development
 - Indigo Technologies
- Excellence in Customer Service
 - Beetroot Restaurants Ltd
- Excellence in Health & Safety
 - Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC)
- Made in Aberdeen
 - North Hop Aberdeen/Frasermedia
- Outstanding Contribution to Society
 - DA (Drugs Action)
- Outstanding Contribution to the Energy Sector
 - Step Change in Safety
- Overall Business of the Year
 - CHC Helicopter
- Rising Star
 - Lubbers UK Ltd - Nick Latham
- Student Placement

- Stena Drilling Ltd
- The Business Diversity
 - Tesco
- The Green Award
 - Sureclean

Ends

Notes to editor

- Jimmy Milne was awarded the CBE in 1994, received an honorary doctorate from Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University in 1999 and was made Burgess of Guild in the City of Aberdeen during 2004. He became Deputy Lieutenant of Aberdeen City in 2007 and received a Degree Honoris Causa from the University of Aberdeen in 2008. In 2011 he was inducted into the Entrepreneurial Exchange's Hall of Fame and in 2013 was made Honorary Doctor of Business Administration by Edinburgh Napier University.
- Attached is a copy of the Northern Star Business Awards logo.
- Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC) is North-east Scotland's leading private sector, member-focused, business organisation. The Chamber represents more than 1,350 businesses with almost 130,000 employees in the private sector covering all industry sectors, ranging in size from sole traders to multi-national corporations.

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