



with  
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In association with  
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## THE AWARDS AND SPONSORS

In association with

**Business Link**

The impartial route to business advice.  
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**Business of the Year** -  
for outstanding performance



**Small Business of the Year** -  
for a company with 15 or fewer staff



**Business Personality of the Year** -  
for demonstrating inspired leadership



**Achiever of the Year** -  
recognising creativity and individual contribution



**Team of the Year** -  
three or more people who have made a real  
difference



**Community Contribution  
of the Year** - recognising a  
dynamic contribution to the local community



**Innovation of the Year** -  
recognising companies high growth in turnover and  
profit relative to their size through innovative  
processes or products - Hampshire County Council



**Lifetime Achievement Award** - not open to entry,  
but bestowed by the panel of judges - Coffin Mew  
LLP

**Exporter of the Year** - recognising companies  
which can demonstrate the importance of  
exporting to their success

# Applications are now go for our excellence awards

## Nominations are now being sought for prestigious event



**MOTIVATOR** Last year's Achiever of the Year winner Luke Ashworth

THE clinking of champagne glasses and peals of applause still seem fresh in the memory.

But six months after the prize-giving ceremony, *The News*' Business Excellence Awards are again set to become the toast of the town, as the annual competition opens for entry this week.

As of today, firms and individuals can enter the awards in the nine categories.

These sit alongside the by-invitation-only Lifetime Achievement award for businessmen or women who have made a lasting contribution to the area's culture of enterprise.

Last year's Achiever of the Year was Luke Ashworth, boss of Netbasic in Funtley Court, Fareham, which had enjoyed some of the fastest growth of any technology firm in the UK.

He said: 'I think the biggest thing is the kick it gives the team. Yes, I got Achiever of the Year, but at the end of the day everybody knows there's

a company behind me to do that. It's a morale thing which is important. A lot of your job is as a motivator and if you have something externally which recognises the company that helps.

'In this environment that's the biggest thing. It's like needing to psych up a football team every morning.

'Alex Ferguson thinks he has a tough job, and he only does it twice a week.'

Deborah Wyatt, director of the awards' main sponsor, Business Link, said: 'Business Link is delighted to continue as the main sponsor for the *The News*' Business Excellence Awards in their eighth year, as evidence of our ongoing desire to reward the talent and creativity displayed by local enterprise.

'Each year the quality of entrants increases.

She added: 'Portsmouth is home to many innovative and entrepreneurial organisations that contribute to the local economy and in such a tough economic climate it is important to celebrate success.'

Each of the categories has a winner, runner-up and highly commended.

The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony on January 28, 2010.

To apply, download a form at [portsmouth.co.uk/business](http://portsmouth.co.uk/business) E-mail it to [adam.kula@thenews.co.uk](mailto:adam.kula@thenews.co.uk) or post it to Business Desk, The News Centre, Hilsea, Portsmouth, PO2 9SX

## Halfords gets weather boost

RETAILER Halfords said sales were boosted by strong demand in cycling, camping and travel equipment during the three months to early July. With fine weather earlier in the summer and the government's Cycle2Work scheme helping business, Halfords yesterday reported like-for-like sales growth of 1.3 per cent in the 13 weeks to July 3. Car maintenance also

traded positively, assisted by new products and the success of the company's in-store fitting service, with the number of jobs performed by staff rising 50 per cent.

Halfords is braced for trading conditions to remain uncertain for the rest of the year and said the limited availability of quality sites would reduce new store openings.

## SHARE PRICES

Prices at last night's close

Aviva	343	+11	IBM (\$)	116	-1
BAE Systems	328	+6	Int Power	259	+3
BG Group	1054	-26	Johnston Press	16	-
BP	505	+1	Lloyds Banking	83	+2
Brit Airways	134	+2	Lockheed (\$)	74	-
BT	112	+1	Pall (\$)	29	-
Cable & W	143	+3	QinetiQ	138	-
Centrica	239	+1	Raymarine	12	-
Chemring	2034	+7	Scot & SE	1132	+4
De La Rue	830	+18	Stagecoach	130	-
Eaton Corp (\$)	50	-	VT Group	457	-1
First Group	329	+3	Wyeth (\$)	46	-

The FTSE-100 index closed up 18.69 at 4547.53.

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