

## Enterprise showcase gets royal seal of approval

Wednesday 13 June, 2012

Business Minister Mark Prisk is urging the UK's most innovative businesses to put their names forward for a prestigious award from Her Majesty The Queen.

Mr Prisk called for firms of all sizes to enter the Queens Awards for Enterprise as he met with some of its winners at a showcase held in their honour at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).

Started in 1966, the Queens Awards for Enterprise are the UK's highest accolade for business success, awarded to outstanding UK companies leading the way in international trade, innovation and sustainable development. It also celebrates individuals who make outstanding contributions to enterprise culture via The Queen's Awards for Enterprise Promotion.

Some of the displays at the showcase include a three-wheeler all-terrain electric mobility vehicle by Beamer Ltd which featured on BBC's Top Gear, a selection of unique detangling hairbrushes by Tangle Teezer and a special Jubilee-themed folding bicycle designed by Brompton Bicycles.

Business Minister Mark Prisk said:

We've been very impressed by the entries to this year's awards. Of the 209 winners, 180 are small and medium sized businesses and almost half are from manufacturing. This demonstrates how smaller businesses and the manufacturing industry can drive growth for UK PLC. I encourage firms to get involved and submit their entries for next year's awards.

"This showcase forms part of a package of initiatives and programmes Government is leading to show how innovative and world-leading our manufacturing base is here in the UK.

For example, businesses up and down the country are opening their factories to visitors this month as part of our See Inside Manufacturing campaign. Also, the Make it in Great Britain campaign, which is dispelling the myth that we don't make anything in the UK anymore, will culminate during the Olympic and Paralympic Games at an exhibit at the Science Museum.

"Rightfully so, image is important, but we also need to ensure that businesses get the support they need to grow. This is why we have rolled out initiatives such as the £125 million Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative and recently re-launched the Manufacturing Advisory Service."

The Queens Awards for Enterprise showcase will be on display until Friday 15 June.

Entry is now open for the 2013 Queens Awards for Enterprise and will close on 28 September 2012.

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