

## Salford Business Awards 2014 Winners Celebrated

Monday 9 June, 2014

The winners of the 2014 Salford Business Awards sponsored by TalkTalk Technology were announced during Thursday's (5th June) ceremony at the AJ Bell Stadium, with JMC IT being crowned large business of the year and Oakwood Engineering named small business of the year.

Judges felt that IT support, technology and software partner JMC IT – which also scooped the Excellence Award – was outstanding in all areas of the business. Based in Pendlebury, JMC IT has more than 400 clients across the region in industries including housing, law, accountancy and leisure.

It offers a managed support service from advanced remote system monitoring to a comprehensive IT service desk function and recognises that its people are its biggest asset, confirmed by its 15th place in the Sunday Times 2014 Top 100 Best Small Companies to Work For ranking.

Small Business of the Year Oakwood Engineering also received the Innovation Award.

The Eccles family firm has radically changed its business, from providing expertise within a traditional construction industry to leading innovation in Building Information Modelling (BIM), with Wembley Stadium and The Shard just two of the many iconic projects that it has undertaken.

Harland Machine Systems won the International Trade Award; the Community Forest Trust received the Energy & Environment Award; with CSG Lanstar named Best Employer; The Lowry scooping the Best Community Award; the Entrepreneur Award going to LSE Retail Group and KeepItUsable winning the Rising Star title.

The prestigious event, hosted by BAFTA award-winning journalist Elaine Willcox, was attended by 350 guests who enjoyed an after-dinner speech from BBC Breakfast sports presenter Mike Bushell. The Awards are organised by the University of Salford, The Business Group Salford and Salford City Council.

Salford City Mayor, Ian Stewart, said: "Salford's businesses are some of the most innovative and successful in Britain. It is fantastic to have the opportunity to celebrate their achievements.

"They represent the best of our great city around the world and are creating job opportunities for people at home."

University of Salford Vice-Chancellor, Professor Martin Hall, commented: "We have a proud history of supporting businesses and working with them to drive innovation. Salford Business School has just received the Small Business Charter Award from the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills and the Association of Business Schools in recognition of its dedication to support and improve links with the local business community.

"The Government's Witty report into universities and economic growth last year also ranked Salford as the number one university in the North West and fifth in the UK for industry engagement. We're pleased to be involved in the Salford Business Awards once more, as vibrant business development is key to Salford's future."

Paul Wainwright, Chair of The Business Group, said: "It's wonderful to see so many successful businesses in Salford working together, creating job opportunities and promoting the City across the globe.

"We're delighted to be able to celebrate their achievements and look forward to continuing our work supporting our thriving business community between now and the 2015 awards."

Full list of winners and runners-up:

Business of the Year Award sponsored by TalkTalk Technology

Large Business of the Year: JMC IT

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Small Business of the Year: Oakwood Engineering

Energy & Environment Award sponsored by ENER-G

Winner: Community Forest Trust

Runner-up: Baba+Boo

Excellence Award sponsored by Cetus Solutions & Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

Winner: JMC IT

Runner-up: Imperative Training

International Trade Award supported by UKTI

Winner: Harland Machine Systems

Runner-up: ENER-G

Best Employer Award sponsored by JMC IT

Winner: CSG Lanstar

Runner-up: Cuckoo Design

Community Award sponsored by Salford City Council

Winner: The Lowry

Runner-up: Helping Hands

Entrepreneur Award sponsored by Salford Innovation Park

Winner: LSE Retail Group

Runner-up: Treacle Events

Rising Star Award sponsored by NatWest

Winner: KeepItUsable

Runner-up: Wink Nudge

Innovation Award sponsored by the University of Salford

Winner: Oakwood Engineering

Runner-up: Vaioni

- Ends -

Image captions:

1. JMC IT, 2014 Salford Business Awards large business of the year.
2. Oakwood Engineering, 2014 Salford Business Awards small business of the year.

High resolution versions of these images can be downloaded from [www.flickr.com/salforduniversity](http://www.flickr.com/salforduniversity).

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