



ON TOP: Interex staff at their offices in Needham Market

Photograph: CONTRIBUTED

Firms win a Royal seal of approval

CROWNED: Firms scoop Queen's Awards

By Sarah Chambers

VEHICLE and machinery parts firms from Suffolk are among those celebrating today after gaining a coveted enterprise award.

Needham Market-based specialist vehicle parts export firm Interex and Hadleigh-based machinery parts supplier Plant Parts Ltd are among 156 winners of the Queen's Awards for Enterprise announced today.

Both scooped the International Trade title at the awards, which are the UK's highest accolade for business success.

In all, 102 firms won accolades for international trade, 44 for innovation and 10 for sustainable development, while another 11 individuals scooped The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion.

International Export Supplies, which trades as Interex and Interex Motorsport, started life in a converted chicken shed in Berkshire in 1997. In 2000, the business relocated to the Lion Barn Industrial Estate in Needham Market and specialises in exporting parts for cars, trucks, buses and public service vehicles, although unusual orders have included muesli to Guatemala, ceremonial swords to Barbados and model aeroplanes to Kuala Lumpur.



HARD WORKING: Plant Parts staff at Hadleigh

Founder and managing director David Dodd said: "We are thrilled to receive the Queen's Award for International Trade. It is the most coveted UK business award and is testament to the hard work of the dedicated staff at Interex. Moving to Suffolk in 2000 was certainly instrumental to our success, it proved to be the ideal place for our business to flourish and expand."

Plant Parts has been trading from Hadleigh for almost 20 years and now employs 13 staff. It sells parts for construction machinery and reconditions track-type construction

machinery final drive. It has invested heavily in product and customer support IT systems.

Managing director Mr Richard Finch said of the award, "I am delighted for the whole team. This award is testament to the hard work and commitment of everyone at Plant Parts."

Miller and Miller (Chemicals) Ltd of Hainault in Essex also scooped an international trade award, while Essex-based Lakehouse Contracts Ltd, of Romford, is celebrating a sustainable development accolade.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Bottle contract chosen on merit

DISS-BASED Merit Plastic Mouldings has won a contract to supply components for Suffolk-based GreenBottle, which makes environmentally-friendly milk containers.

It will supply the plastic neck that fits onto the inner liner of the bottle after Greenbottle decided to switch manufacture from China to the UK.

GreenBottle head of design John-Paul Grogan said they had chosen the company because of its attention to detail.

Enterprise course

A new course is looking for the next wave of Alan Sugars and Richard Bransons.

Suffolk One in Ipswich is running a new Edexcel Diploma in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship supported by the National Enterprise Academy.

The course begins in September and allows young people to set up and run a business over a four month period while working towards their diploma.

Learners will work with local and national companies who will give guidance on how to run a successful business.

Georgina Chittock-Nash, head of the business faculty at Suffolk One, said: "The best thing you can do as a young person who wants to run their own business is to get hands-on experience and this is what this course aims to do."

READER COMPETITION

EAST ANGLIAN
DAILY TIMES

Throughout April we will be continuing our popular competition with Waitrose at Colchester and Saxmundham to offer four lucky readers the opportunity to win a £100 shopping spree.

Imagine £100 to spend on whatever you like - treat yourself to a carefully selected bottle of wine, splash out on a few luxury items or simply fill your trolley with your Waitrose favourites.

Easter bunny biscuits with currants and mixed spice

Children will enjoy making these buttery biscuits for family and friends over the holidays. They could also wrap them up as Easter gifts.

Visit www.waitrose.com for full recipe details

For your chance to win £100 worth of vouchers simply answer the following question.

Currants are dried

a) grapes b) gooseberries?

Send your answer, name, address and contact number to:

Waitrose Competition, EADT, PO Box 355, Ipswich, IP4 1QL.

Or e-mail your answer along with your full name, address and daytime telephone number to: eadt.competitions@eadt.co.uk with Easter bunny in the subject box. By entering by e-mail you are agreeing that Archant may contact you with information on appropriate products or services.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Closing date for entries is April 29, 2011 and normal EADT competition rules apply. Voucher must be spent at Waitrose Colchester or Saxmundham and cannot be spent on phone-cards, spirits or tobacco.



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