



Newbury entrepreneur through to Director of the Year finals

Steve Rebbettes, Operations Director of BCMS Corporate Ltd, is a finalist for an IoD South East Director of the Year Award. He has impressed judges with the way he has taken the family business, which sells privately-owned companies on behalf of the owners, to new heights.

The Institute of Directors' awards, sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers, are the first to be organised for South East business leaders. They are designed to highlight and applaud directors with outstanding business acumen, leadership skills and social responsibility.

IoD Regional Director, Rodger Broad, explains: "Directors come to us from all over the world for help and advice on their professional development. Here we are saying: 'Look at these people, they excel at business leadership; their skills are benefiting not only their company, but their employees, industry and the community'. Steve is one of three finalists in the category for businesses turning over between £5m and £25m. "

BCMS has previously won the title "Great Britain Family Business of the Year 2006 (5-25m category)". Steve's brother and father are also Directors in the Newbury-based company where they have 110 employees.

Says Steve: "Our vision is to internationalise. This year we have opened an office in New York. We have started to embark on a sales campaign and we are already ahead of our targets. We intend to open other offices in other US cities and indeed other countries. We already have partners in a number of European countries and we intend to increase these also."

The company has set up its own charity, The Poor & Needy Benefit Trust, which finances a school and an orphanage in India. It also works with a number of local schools and charities, supporting these in various practical ways, like giving year 11 students mock job interviews and giving practical feedback on how best to be interviewed.

Five Directors of the Year, from an area stretching from Banbury to Dover, will be chosen at a sell-out gala dinner at the imposing IoD headquarters in Pall Mall in November. For details, see www.iod.com/south/awards.

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Editors please note:

The Institute of Directors (IoD) is the world's most experienced and long-standing organisation advocating director professionalism. It provides a professional network that reaches into every corner of the business community. Membership spans the whole spectrum of international business leadership, from the largest public companies to the smallest private firms. Members receive a variety of benefits including information, advice, training, conferences and publications to help them maximise their potential. They also have an influential organisation representing their concerns to government and providing professional business support, wherever it is needed. In the South East there are ten branches with some 15,000 members and a regional "hub" for members' use in Reading.