



International Trade Club

Export efforts bring awards success

Three companies from Pennine Lancashire are celebrating Christmas early, after winning awards for their export successes. The three took the honours at East Lancashire's International Trade Club Awards, which recognise the – often overlooked – work of exporters.

Metal Improvement Company, based in Earby, won the New Exporter award, after signing a deal with a Swiss firm to strengthen turbine components with its Laser Peening process – unique outside the US.

Accrington's Acorn Digital International Inks, which supplies specialist inks to the packaging industry, won the Entering New Markets award, for the staggering achievement of becoming a new exporter and trading in 17 countries in just five months. Acorn Digital International was also highly commended in the New Exporter category.

Barrowford's ACDC Lighting won the Export Performance award for its success in securing contracts across the world for its architectural lighting systems, including the renowned Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai. The firm increased export sales by £1.5 million.

Ed Murphy, International Trade Director at Chamber of Commerce East Lancashire said: "East Lancashire sets the bar for the North West on the quality of export companies. A lot of people don't realise how many world beaters and how many really dynamic companies we've got. These are all examples of that sort of company: High technology, cutting edge and very very good at what they do.

"It's nice to recognise all their effort and achievement."

Ian McGeachie [CORRECT], Division Manager for Metal Improvement Company, said of their award: "It's fantastic. I never thought for a minute we'd win it. It's been a long road to get this contract. We're very happy now that it's here. We hope to keep going and we can take in components from anywhere in the world."

Chris Rayner, Managing Director of Acorn, said: "It's brilliant! We wouldn't have got where we are now without the support from the Chamber. And since entering, we have added two new markets to our list."

Mark Wolstenholme, Head of Marketing for ACDC said: "I'm really proud that we've won. The company has been working hard to build business in our export markets. We've employed another 13 people at a time when other companies are laying off staff."

Three other companies were also highly commended in the Export Performance category: Blackburn interactive whiteboard manufacturer Promethean, Burnley's Process Instruments, which provides measuring equipment to the water industry, and Nelson-based Kirk Environmental, which provides equipment for the biogas industry.

ENDS

1. For more information, or to request photos from the event, contact Tom Calver on 07866 505245.