

LEADING HEALTHCARE COMPANIES REAP THE REWARDS

The UK's most innovative healthcare companies had their hard work and outstanding achievements recognised at the Medilink UK National 'Health Technology' Awards in Birmingham on the 13 February 2008.

The event, which was held in the NEC's Exhibition Seminar Theatre, saw a panel of judges from every region of the UK select the best of the Regional Medilink Award Winners for the following categories - Innovation, Growth in Sector, Business Start-Up, Export Achievement and Partnership with the NHS.

The Health Technologies KTN 'Innovation' Award was picked up by Medical Lighting Specialists Brandon Medical Company Ltd, for the development of Symposia - the world's first fully integrated medical tele-video system for healthcare. The Yorkshire based company's innovation is an IP based open ended platform that allows complete integration of any medical video source providing full collaborative working between clinicians across any distance.

Mr Graeme Hall, Managing Director of Brandon Medical, said: "It is fantastic to have our achievements in innovation recognised not only at a regional level but also in a national competition such as the Medilink UK awards. It's a great pleasure to see our investments in design and technology paying off in the form of brilliant new products."

ImmunoDiagnostic Systems (IDS) Ltd, a manufacturer of specialist manual healthcare diagnostics kits for bone disease (such as osteoporosis) and calcium dysfunction won the Jonathan Lee Recruitment 'Growth in Sector'.

IDS, based in Tyne & Wear, had turnover growth of 49.6% in 2006 and 22.3% in 2007, seeing the business rise to a annual turnover of around £7.13 million, driven by the establishment of new subsidiaries in key global markets.

The Clinical Services Journal 'Start-up' Award went to Sleepworks Products Ltd, who produce 'Snorkil', an over the counter anti-snoring device. In their first year of trading, Sleepworks - based in Wales, have had strong sales in the UK as well as opening up new markets in Europe, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and Thailand.

Winner of the UKTI 'Export Achievement' Award was Hart Biologicals Ltd, who have established new markets in Germany, the USA and Spain, increasing their turnover by 47%. The achievement of the County Durham based manufacturer of clinical laboratory diagnostic products, was marked by their success in two of the most demanding export markets in the world (USA and Germany)

The winner of the NHS National Innovation Centre 'Partnership with the NHS' Award was Peacocks Medical Group Ltd, for their work with the Diabetic Clinic in Newcastle over the past eight years, that has seen their pressure relieving diabetic footwear (supported by a multi-disciplinary team) reduce amputations by 45%.

Chairman of Medilink UK, Kevin Kiely, said: "These awards exemplify the level of excellence achieved by the UK's Health Technology companies and the contribution they make, not only to the regional and national economy, but also in enhancing the quality of patient care. This year's entrants were wide ranging and of an exceptional quality, reflecting the strength and diversity of one of the UK's most thriving sectors."

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