

## **THE BEST OF THE BEST IN SCOTTISH BUSINESS RECOGNISED**

First female US Secretary of State Dr Madeline K Albright tonight joined the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) at Scotland's International Awards in Glasgow to recognise the best of Scottish exporters.

Delivering a keynote speech to more than 700 senior guests, just three days after the US elections, Dr Albright shared her vision on current global issues, focusing on leadership and how Scotland can achieve its international ambitions and inspire a generation of young people.

Scotland's International Awards, held in the world-class Emirates Arena, home of the 2014 Commonwealth Games, recognise the global ambitions and successes of Scotland's leading internationally-focussed companies, showcasing Scotland as an outward looking, ambitious and enterprising nation.

Dr Albright presented the awards with Diageo Scotland achieving the highly acclaimed SCDI President's Award for its outstanding contribution to Scotland's economy.

Diageo's brands include many of the most successful premium distilled spirit brands enjoyed worldwide. Its commitment to innovation and excellence has created great success for the company, and for Scotland, in international markets. The success of the Scotch whisky industry in global trade has been a phenomenon, continuing to this day, and Diageo has made a major contribution to Scotland's export revenues.

Bryan Donaghey, Managing Director, Diageo Scotland, said: "I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of Diageo in Scotland and our 4,000 employees across the country. We value highly the recognition from SCDI, which does such great work to promote Scottish economic development, particularly given the international context of these awards.

"The brands we produce are enjoying remarkable global growth. Scotch whisky is Scotland's most celebrated manufactured export, led by brands like Johnnie Walker, which resonates with consumers from Boston to Beijing and everywhere in between. We are extremely proud of what we do and are tremendously excited to be investing strongly in our business in Scotland so we are positioned to seize the opportunity of further global growth in demand for our brands.

"This award is recognition of the superb contribution that all our people have made over many years in taking our fantastic business from strength to strength."

Presenting the award to Diageo, Lady Susan Rice, SCDI President, said: “I am delighted to present the 2012 President’s Award to Diageo, an organisation demonstrating an outstanding contribution to Scotland’s economic and social prosperity.

“Diageo’s achievements in exporting and sustainability over many years include the development of global Scotch whisky brands, an ongoing Scottish investment programme and construction of a world-class bioenergy facility.

“Their contribution to Scotland will continue long into the future following the announcement of a £1bn investment in Scotch whisky over the next five years. We look forward to continuing to work with Diageo to promote Scotland and its products on the world stage.”

Other winners on the night included Paisley-based Scottish Leather Group and Falkirk-based Alexander Dennis Limited who accepted the Accenture Awards for Outstanding International Achievement in Green Energy and the Barclays Award for Outstanding International Achievement in Manufacturing respectively.

The BP Award for Outstanding International Achievement in the Oil and Gas Industry was awarded to ACE Winches for its work in growing its business whilst being committed to its Aberdeenshire roots. The Brodies LLP International Award for Innovation in Product or Service Development was presented to Cormack Consultancy Group for its focus on helping Scottish companies internationalise their business.

Museum showcase manufacturers, ClickNetherfield, won the Deloitte International Award for Excellence in Exporting for its work in over 50 different countries.

The Glasgow Caledonian University International Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business was presented to Shed Productions for its exceptional achievement in the global marketplace.

Scotland’s International Awards are a unique and prestigious platform which showcase and celebrate Scottish companies operating in international markets and making an impact globally.

**Ends.**

Notes to Editors:

## **The Accenture Award for Outstanding International Achievement in Green Energy**

**Winner:** Scottish Leather Group Ltd

**Collected by:** Warren Bowden, Environment Director

### **Award Winner quote:**

#### **Scottish Leather Group Ltd**

Scottish Leather Group Environmental Director, Dr. Warren Bowden, said:

Environmental Director, Dr. Warren Bowden said:

"We are absolutely delighted to be recognised by the award for 'Outstanding International Achievement in Green Energy'. Scottish Leather Group is going from strength to strength and expanding business both here in Scotland and internationally. This continuing success can be attributed, at least in part, to our commitment to the environment, the Thermal Energy Plant and the resulting unique low carbon leather product we supply to customers all over the world, including Aston Martin, British Airways, Jaguar Land Rover, Morgan Motor Company, Virgin Atlantic, Volvo and many others.

"Our customers are becoming increasingly conscious of their emissions footprint and the many benefits of reducing this. In supplying low carbon leather we are able to support these efforts and in turn become supplier of choice in a range of sectors around the world. We add this award from SCDI to other accolades received for innovative manufacturing and energy efficiency. We aim to continue being recognised as a company at the forefront of environmental leadership."

### **Award Partner quote:**

#### **Accenture**

Bill McDonald, Managing Director of Accenture Scotland said:

"I am delighted to congratulate The Scottish Leather Group on securing the Outstanding International Achievement in Green Energy. Business success is down to a number of factors with environmental consequences increasingly at the fore. The Scottish Leather Group has taken its responsibilities very seriously and its green credentials underpin its entire business strategy. This is a very commendable characteristic and a very worthy differentiator as they seek to attract new business from around the world. I wish them every success as they continue to grow the businesses."

## **The Barclays Awards for Outstanding International Achievement in Manufacturing**

**Winner:** Alexander Dennis Limited

**Collected by:** Colin Robertson, Chief Executive, Alexander Dennis Limited

### **Award Winner quote:**

Alexander Dennis Limited

Colin Robertson, the company's CEO, commented:

"We are passionate about listening to our customers, understanding their wants and needs – and building vehicles that make a difference, enhancing both the passenger experience and the bottom line of our customers. Our success is also a resounding vote of confidence in our skilled, Scottish engineers, who continually raise the bar and set the standard for the industry."

**Award Partner quote:**

Barclays

Ally Scott, Managing Director, Corporate Banking, Barclays Scotland, said:

“Alexander Dennis Limited is an inspiring example of a business that has truly grasped the opportunities international trade offers. Through strategic acquisitions and joint ventures the company has implemented its ambitious globalisation strategy to impressive effect, tripling its turnover in the process.

“Manufacturing is a vital contributor to our economy and a sector in which Scotland has built a notable reputation. At a time when many of our traditional European export markets are stretched, commercially astute manufacturers like Alexander Dennis are making an impact in alternative markets.”

**The BP Award for Outstanding International Achievement in the Oil & Gas Industry**

**Winner:** ACE Winches

**Collected by:** Alfie Cheyne, CEO, ACE Winches

**Award Winner quote:**

ACE Winches

Alfie Cheyne, CEO, ACE Winches, collected the award on behalf of the company.

He said: ““I am delighted and proud to accept this award on behalf of ACE Winches. This prestigious honour positively highlights the past and ongoing hard work and commitment, desire and drive shown by all our staff and employees.

“We now export 74% of products and services worldwide and increasing our global market sales and share is a major strategic goal. ACE Winches aspire to be the global solution provider of choice and a market leader in winch applications technology.

“ACE Winches, at all times, provide exceptional service and project performance of the highest quality in order to exceed client expectations, whilst maintaining an excellent record of safety, quality and reliability.

“The company is committed to achieving sustained growth through profitability and innovation, and securing the long term future of the workforce and their families.

“We work hard to continually develop and enhance knowledge and skill sets and build a thriving manufacturing business and global campus in the heart of North East of Scotland.”

**Award Partner quote:**

BP

Tim Smith, Vice President Communications and External Affairs, BP North Sea, said:

“BP is delighted to sponsor the award for Outstanding International Achievement. Ace Winches is a worthy winner. It has diversified its customer base in recent years and now operates on a global scale. It is a fine example of how to grow a business by focusing and taking advantage of international opportunities. But Ace Winches is also committed to its roots. From its base in rural Aberdeenshire it is providing local employment and also helping support education and youth unemployment. The combination of its international expansion and being a good corporate citizen at home made it a clear winner in this category.”

## **The Brodies LLP International Award for Innovation in Product or Service Development**

**Winner:** Cormack Consultancy Group

**Collected by:** Charles Cormack, Managing Director

**Award Winner quote:**

Cormack Consultancy Group

Charles Cormack, Managing Director said:

“Cormack Consultancy Group is thrilled to have won this prestigious award. The decision we took 12 months ago to reassess our business and innovate in terms of the service we offer and the business model we use has proven extremely successful. Those changes have allowed us to open three new offices in the last 12 months, adding Russia, India and Romania to our existing offices in Scotland, Latvia and Lithuania.

“The new focus of our business has allowed us to secure clients from many international markets including the USA, Sweden, Poland, Australia and Germany, as well as markets where we have offices. The service we offer helps companies develop internationalisation strategies. We work in markets that are booming. It is working so well because we have learnt in the areas where we have global offices how to maximise opportunities through local knowledge, partnerships and investment.”

**Award Partner quote:**

Brodies LLP

Grant Campbell, lead international partner at Brodies LLP, said:

"As a partner of Scotland's International Awards, we are committed to working in close collaboration with innovative and dynamic Scottish businesses and organisations to help them realise their potential in international markets. We are delighted that Cormack Consultancy Group, which also shares this aim, has won The Brodies LLP International Award for Innovation in Product or Service Development. The Cormack Consultancy Group stands out for its focus on helping Scottish companies internationalise their business. Its recent expansions into Russia, India and Romania are proof of this commitment and its impressive list of client testimonials demonstrates that the Cormack Consultancy Group is the real deal."

## **The Deloitte International Award for Excellence in Exporting**

**Winner:** ClickNetherfield

**Collected by:** Jim Stewart, Managing Director, ClickNetherfield

**Award Winner quote:**

ClickNetherfield

Jim Stewart, Managing Director, ClickNetherfield, said: “We are delighted to have won such a prestigious Scottish business award to sit alongside the Queen’s Award for Enterprise in International Trade that we have been awarded previously. Our exporting activity is crucial to our overall success and international profile and we work hard to ensure that we are continuously establishing new markets and business opportunities.

“We would like to take this opportunity to both thank Scottish Enterprise for their support in international market development; and commend the Scottish Council for Development and Industry for encouraging Scottish companies to be more proactive in the export market with their supported Trade Visits, in which we have successfully participated in the past.

“Thanks must go also to Deloitte for their generous and continued support of these awards.”

**Award Partner quote:**

Deloitte

Ian Steele, senior partner for Deloitte in Scotland and Northern Ireland, said:

“Export has the chance to be the hero of the UK’s stated aim of rebalancing the economy for a more sustainable future and Scotland, with its accomplished heritage of trading in international markets, is well placed to lead this opportunity. The SCDI’s International Awards demonstrate that there are some tremendously exciting businesses out there that are doing their best to defy a tough market and succeed in spite of it.

“That spirit of enterprise and determination is paying off for companies like ClickNetherfield, which has just announced a £7 million contract win with the Qatar National Libraries in Doha. Yes, it’s a difficult world out there, but businesses like this which are able to find a niche and work hard to exploit it are going to be Scotland’s engine room of recovery out of recession and beyond.”

**Glasgow Caledonian University International Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business**

**Winner:** Shed Productions

**Collected by:** Eileen Gallagher, Chief Executive and Ann McManus, Creative Director of Productions

**Award Winner quote:**

Shed Productions

Eileen Gallagher, CEO Shed Productions, said: “The rapid growth of Shed Media has been fuelled by a determination to be a global player.

“Founded in 1998, we have grown from a four person operation making drama exclusively for the UK to an international force earning \$25m a year in overseas sales and with a US office turning over \$100 m and numbering around 300 staff.

“With our recent partnership with Warner Brothers, we are set to expand even more rapidly.”

**Award Partner quote:**

Glasgow Caledonian University

Professor Pamela Gillies, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Glasgow Caledonian University, said:

"I am delighted that we are presenting the GCU International Award for Outstanding Achievement in Business to Eileen Gallagher and Ann McManus of SHED Productions. For many years they have been at the forefront of nurturing new talent, fostering creativity and driving economic growth through their production of original TV programming. At GCU we are thankful that they used this expertise, and offered leadership and support, for the establishment of our unique Masters degree in TV Fiction Writing. Their ongoing contribution to the Scottish economy was underlined when production for the award winning Waterloo Road was transferred to Scotland, a £25m investment, which created employment for up to 230 people in the industry.

“This announcement was influential in bolstering Scotland’s position internationally as a great location for production companies to locate and invest. Shed Production’s partnership with Warner Bros. International Production further underlines its status as an international player. As a globally networked University, GCU understands the importance of recognising the efforts of business leaders whose work has stimulated economic activity in Scotland, and raised our profile abroad. I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank Eileen Gallagher and Ann McManus for their contribution to Scottish culture and commerce with this award.”

### **SCDI Young Engineers & Science Club of the Year**

The award will be presented to the Young Engineers and Science Club which best demonstrated team work, creativity and problem solving skills at the Annual Celebration of Engineering and Science in June 2012.

**Winner:** Bearsden Academy

**Collected by:** Students Meekal Amjad, Callan Littlejohn, Scott Smith, Georgia Campbell, Alison McAleer, Ophira Gottlieb and Teacher Brian Jilks

### **SCDI President's Award**

The award is presented to an individual or organisation demonstrating an outstanding contribution to Scotland's economy.

**Winner:** Diageo Scotland

**Collected by:** Bryan Donaghey, Managing Director, Scotland, Diageo Scotland Limited

#### **Award Winner quote:**

Diageo Scotland

Bryan Donaghey, Managing Director, Diageo Scotland said: "I am delighted to accept this award on behalf of Diageo in Scotland and our 4,000 employees across the country. We value highly the recognition from SCDI, which does such great work to promote Scottish economic development, particularly given the international context of these awards.

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#### **SCDI President quote:**

Lady Susan Rice, SCDI President said "I am delighted to present the 2012 President's Award to Diageo, an organisation demonstrating an outstanding contribution to Scotland's economic and social prosperity.

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**Issued by The BIG Partnership on behalf of SCDI**

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