



Press Release

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PLC Awards 2013 recognise contribution of mid-market companies in driving the long-awaited recovery of the UK economy

- Xaar plc, Julian Dunkerton of Supergroup plc and Merlin Entertainments plc among the winners at the PLC Awards 2013

The strength of businesses across the UK in the small quoted companies sector has been recognised at the PLC Awards 2013, sponsored by PwC, and produced by Ford Sinclair Ltd.

Among the winners were Xaar plc, which scooped the Company of the Year award. Xaar was formed in Cambridge to acquire, develop and commercially exploit new digital inkjet printing technology. Julian Dunkerton of Cheltenham-based Supergroup plc, the designer of the Superdry fashion line won the highly-prized Entrepreneur of the year award. Vectura plc based in Wiltshire shared the best technology gong with BTG plc.

Around 1,100 guests, including quoted companies, investment banks, fund managers, investment analysts, and corporate advisers attended the event, which took place in London last night.

The awards are now in their 28th year, and the shortlisted companies -selected from high quality entries spanning the entire UK- celebrate the best in the mid-market business sector.

David Snell, partner, PwC said:

“It's with relief that we finally seem to be entering a period of sustained economic recovery in the UK after what has been one of the longest recessionary periods in living memory. It is even more encouraging that, as I hoped for last year, this recovery is indeed being led by our small and mid-cap business sector. This in turn has led to a resurgent UK Primary Market, fed by improving investor confidence and a generally strong after-market performance for those companies who completed IPOs in 2013.

“London remained the largest market in Europe by total number and total money raised, PwC IPO Watch tracker found. IPO values on the LSE increased by €9.3bn (180%) year-on-year to €14.4bn driven by a 41% increase in the number of IPOs from



73 to 103 and the presence of bigger deals like Royal Mail, Merlin Entertainments and Foxtons.

“Heading into 2014, PwC expects to see many retail, technology and consumer companies coming to the market in the first half of 2014.”

The full list of winners is below

Best Investor Communication	IP Group plc
Achievement in Sustainability	Thomas Cook Group plc
Best performing share Award	Ocado
Turnaround of the year	Thomas Cook Group plc
Fund manager of the year	Mike Prentis, Blackrock
Best Technology Award	Jointly won by BTG Group plc and Vectura plc
New Company of the year	Merlin Entertainments plc
Entrepreneur of the year	Julian Dunkerton, Supergroup plc
Company of the year	Xaar plc

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About Ford Sinclair

Ford Sinclair is a UK based event management business specialising in high profile, market leading events in the UK quoted and private company sectors. Each event produced by Ford Sinclair is the undisputed no.1 in its sector. For further information contact Jo Thomas at Jo.thomas@ford-sinclair.co.uk or on 01277 350 557.



About the PLC Awards

A fixture in the UK corporate calendar and a 'must attend event' since 1987, the PLC recognises success and achievement amongst publicly quoted companies in the UK. For further information visit www.plc-awards.co.uk.