

## **IS YOUR BUSINESS A BRITISH CHAMPION?**

The fourth annual hunt for the British Small Business Champion is about to kick-off. The competition sees Lloyds TSB, the Federation of Small Businesses and The Mirror joining forces to search for successful small businesses across the UK. The overall winner - the 2005 Champion - will win a tailor-made business trip to New York.

Stephen Pegge, head of communications, Lloyds TSB Business, says: "Small firms are vital for the health of the UK economy. Not only do they provide employment to millions, but they are often the source of the innovation for which this country is renowned. These awards have already gone some way towards giving small business the recognition it deserves, as well as raising the profile of entrepreneurship up and down the country."

The competition is open to all well-run small enterprises that have been operating for at least five years, employ fewer than 50 people and offer excellent customer service. Six regional winners will be chosen from firms based in the North, Midlands, South of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The regional finalists will then go on to compete for the British Small Business Champion title, which will be awarded at Claridge's in London on 15 November 2005.

John Emmins, BSBC chairman at the Federation of Small Businesses, says: "This is the fourth year that we have run these awards, which have proved to be exceptionally popular with Britain's small business owners."

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John Emmins continues: "This sends out a clear message that SMEs want, and value, genuine recognition of their achievements and the invaluable contribution they make to their customers, employees and communities across the UK."

Previous winners have come from very diverse sectors. The 2004 Champion, Noel Chadwick Ltd from Standish, Wigan, was an example of a family-run butcher's shop, restaurant and food hall successfully built from a tradition handed down through the generations. They followed in the footsteps of the 2003 winners, The Industrial Building Company Ltd. from Richmond, North Yorkshire. Both were able to impress the judges with their vision, determination and the way that they run their individual businesses.

Entry forms can be obtained by calling **01525 381503**, faxing **01525 853561**, writing to **BSBC, St. Kilda, 24 Heath Road, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 3AB** or emailing [businessawards@fsb.org.uk](mailto:businessawards@fsb.org.uk).

Alternatively, apply online at [www.fsb.org.uk/general/bsbc](http://www.fsb.org.uk/general/bsbc). The closing date for applications is 12 May 2005.

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**For more information:**

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