

News Release

Dudley Firm Show Business Minister who is Boss

Boss Design in the running to win top award in business 'Oscars'

12 May 2009

Government Minister Ian Pearson made a special visit to a Dudley firm on Friday (8 May), which has been shortlisted for one of the most prestigious business awards in the country.

Boss Design, off New Road, is a leading UK office seating manufacturer and has a client base that includes Mini and the Hilton Hotel chain. The visit was a chance for the firm to show the Business Minister the outstanding work being engineered and manufactured in the region.

The Minister who is also the Dudley South MP spent one hour at the firm, which employs 215 people across Dudley and London and despite the economic climate, is going from strength to strength. It has been shortlisted as one of only a handful of companies in the Manufacturing Excellence Awards (MX09) which will take place at the Dorchester in London on 25 June.

The MX Awards are known as the 'Oscars' of the business world and is run by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMEchE). This year there are 12 'Oscars' up for grabs including the BERR Manufacturing Advisory Service Award for Manufacturing Excellence Overall Winner and the National Skills Academy for Manufacturing Award for Manufacturing Excellence in a Best Small or Medium Enterprise.

Steve Gasser, Business Development Manager for the IMechE's Midlands region, said: "There is no doubt that the manufacturing industry has already been deeply affected by the recession and is in great need of a boost. Boss is one of four fantastic companies in the Midlands that prove they have real fighting spirit and the tenacity to want to survive and keep that competitive edge. These awards serve to not only raise the profile of our region's manufacturing output but also highlights the innovation that exists on our own doorstep."

Boss has a turnover of £25million and last year, produced over 120,000 units. In April 2009, it received the Queen's Award for Enterprise which recognises and rewards the outstanding achievements of UK companies. The company, which marks its 26th anniversary this year, also prides itself on working closely with local schools including St Anthony's Primary School and Wollescote Primary School in the area to inspire and encourage interest in engineering and manufacturing.

Dave Wright, Chief Executive of the BERR Manufacturing Advisory Service West Midlands, a sponsor of MX, said: "Boss Design is testament that product design is a fundamental cornerstone to the success of a manufacturing business. One of the benefits that MX offers is a free benchmarking report which highlights both strengths and areas for improvement. Indeed, Boss entered previously and have capitalised on the advice given to them and this has helped drive their company forward. I am delighted to say are enjoying global success."

This year the West Midlands has four companies in the MX09 shortlist: Boss Design in Dudley, ZF Lemforder in Solihull, Hozelock in Sutton Coldfield and JSC Rotational Ltd, in Inkberrow, Redditch, Worcestershire.

Other 'Oscar' Categories

- PricewaterhouseCoopers Award for Customer Focus
- Autodesk Award for Product Innovation
- IXC-UK Ltd Award for Process Innovation
- WMG Award for Logistics and Resource Efficiency
- IMechE Award for Business Development & Change Management
- Professional Engineering Award for People Effectiveness
- BP Award for Best Partnership between Business and Education
- National B2B Centre Award for Integrated e-Business
- ERIKS Award for Financial Management
- Arup Award for Sustainable Manufacturing



Photo cap: Business Minister Ian Pearson testing some of Boss Design's seating

Notes to Editors

- For further information, pictures or to arrange interviews with the shortlisted companies, please contact the IMechE Press Office on 020 7304 6888/07730 644134 or email media@imeche.org. Visit www.mxawards.org
- IMechE's MX Awards were established 27-years-ago and are UK's longest running business awards. The scheme encourages best practice and promotes manufacturing. This year's awards take place on 25 June at London's Dorchester Hotel. Journalists wishing to attend should contact the Press Office to attend.
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) first established its Manufacturing Excellence Awards scheme in 1981. In 1999 the process underwent a major review when the Self Assessment Audit and Benchmark Report were introduced. The IMechE now has around 78,000 members in 120 countries. It represents mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. For more information on MX please visit www.mxawards.org or www.imeche.org.