

July 3rd 2009

A BUSINESS THAT IS GOING PLACES

Packaging companies shone at this year's print industry's Excellence Awards, organised by the BPIF and Packaging News's sister title PrintWeek.

Close to 350 of the industry's leading lights helped honour the 18 category winners in the BPIF PrintWeek Excellence Awards. inspirepac was the big winner at the awards, (held 1st July) that are designed to celebrate best practice in the UK printing industry. inspirepac took home the Company of the Year gong, in the 100-plus employees category, as well as the Health and Safety award.

The judges examined business performance and profitability at the shortlisted companies. However, while the facts and figures in reports and accounts are undoubtedly important, the judges also wanted to discover the story behind the numbers.

A new business that is going places, according to the judges. inspirepac certainly lives up to its name. This specialist packaging company, which consists of six business, four of which were the former Mondi Packaging Speciality Products Division, has come a long way in the two years since an MBO and now boasts sales of £32m and 230 staff. A customer list that reads like a who's who of the leading retail, FMCG and beverage brands shows that the company's approach has proven successful in the market. The strong 12% year-on-year increase in sales was exceeded by the growth in operating profit as the company invested in customer service and focused sales on markets that fitted its manufacturing capabilities, which benefited from a £3m investment programme in the latest equipment.

The Health and Safety award examines a company's health and safety policies and performance. The judges look at safety strategy and policy and their effectiveness across every facet of a company's operation.

Over the past year, inspirepac proved itself up to the task of meeting the challenges of the latest health and safety legislation and the Health & Safety Executive's focus in print and packaging on manual handling; contact with machinery; slips, trips and falls; dermatitis and site transport. The company improved its performance and culture through training, communication and employee consultation.

Judges praised the management's inclusion of health and safety as a key part of the business and the company's ability to maintain a healthy working environment despite a factory layout that isn't optimised to its exact requirements. Judges also praised inspirepac's use of notice boards and the illustration and documentation of risk assessment defined by machine and process.



MD Mark Hawkins & CEO Chris Marples receiving the award from Quentin Wilson

