

NORTH LANARKSHIRE
COUNCIL

REPORT

To: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE	Subject: LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS AWARDS	
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT		
Date: 19 November 1996	Ref: DW/LU/REP.107	

BACKGROUND

Members will recall that North Lanarkshire Council was a sponsor for the 1996 Lanarkshire Business Awards. Other sponsors were South Lanarkshire Council, The Royal Bank of Scotland, The Herald newspaper and Lanarkshire Development Agency and the Supercounty Civic Pride Campaign. The awards were made at a celebratory dinner in October and North Lanarkshire companies took 80% of the awards.

LANARKSHIRE BUSINESS AWARDS

The awards were made as follows:

Business Personality of the Year

Neil Baird watson - Caldervale Forge, Airdrie

When Mr Baird watson's father bought the forge in 1950 it manufactured shovels for the mining industry. His foresight in moving his company away from the railway and mining sectors towards its core business of drilling and blasting has helped the company become a leader in its field.

Caldervale Forge currently employs more than 40 people and supplies to a global marketplace including Europe, the Far East, India, Australia and the US, competing against multi-nationals such as Krupps. More than 65% of the company's products are exported and this figure is set to rise, particularly in the US where Mr Baird watson has attended two major international exhibitions on heat induction products.

Mr Baird watson said: "I'm delighted to receive this prestigious business award from my peers in the Lanarkshire business community. I believe that this award is also in recognition of the tremendous workforce we have at Caldervale Forge and their willingness to adapt to change and move into new markets. I also believe that if companies commit themselves to training and the development of their people then they will also be able to diversify successfully."

Lanarkshire Sub-contractor of the Year

The Eurec Group Ltd of Righead Industrial Estate, Bellshill

The Eurec Group Ltd of Bellshill was formed through the amalgamation of three local businesses: REC Engineering Services Ltd, Vector Design and FRS Ltd

The group operates in the construction sector and provides an integrated design, installation and maintenance package of mechanical, electrical and plumbing services. The group was formed in response to customers needs for a wide variety of services and flexible delivery systems. It currently employs 125 people.

Steve Reilly, Eurec director, said: "By bringing together design, installation and maintenance functions we can offer our customers a wide menu of choice. Also by removing the traditional operating barriers between the companies the customer can choose a level of service appropriate to their particular needs and budgets without compromising quality."

*Lanarkshire quality company of the year
OKI (UK) of Cumbernauld*

OKI (UK) is part of a world-wide corporation but is a self-sufficient and autonomous organisation, operating to established local practices. The company manufactures electronic printers and facsimile for a vast range of customers.

The company opened its European manufacturing facility at Cumbernauld in 1987 and began production in 1988. In its first year it received BS 5750 accreditation. In 1992 the company was awarded the Investors in People standard - the first Scottish manufacturing company to do so.

*Award for outstanding export performance
Avecor Cardiovascular Ltd of Strathclyde Business Park, Bellshill*

Avecor Cardiovascular Ltd was founded three years ago and is a fully owned subsidiary of Avecor Cardiovascular Inc of Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is at the forefront of medical technology and is involved in leading-edge research and development. It manufactures and supplies high-tech medical devices for open heart surgery, including artificial lungs, extracorporeal tubing sets and blood reservoirs.

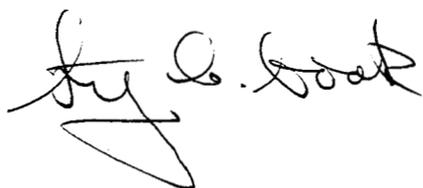
In its first year of operation the company recorded turnover of £1 million. Year end sales are estimated in excess of £9 million. Avecor Cardiovascular exports to 15 European countries, seven Middle Eastern countries, South Africa and to the Far East. A new product is to be launched soon which will bring further expansion and success to the company. Avecor Cardiovascular employs 70 people at Strathclyde Business Park.

CONCLUSION

By taking the bulk of the awards, North Lanarkshire companies have shown that they are a force to be reckoned with in the economic regeneration of Scotland.

RECOMMENDATION

That members note the contents of this report and instruct the Director of Planning and Development to write to the winners of each award congratulating them on behalf of the Economic Development Committee.



Stanley C Cook
Director of Planning and Development