

press release

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The success of companies and people including **Procter & Gamble, Isuzu Truck (UK) Limited, Intamac Systems Ltd, Econcern, Petrotechnics Limited** and **Steve Leach (Group CEO, Bigmouthmedia)** was marked before an audience of European business leaders, politicians and press at the annual gathering to celebrate **Europe's top businesses and business people.**

The European Business Awards recognise and reward excellence, innovation and success. Uniquely open to organisations of all sizes and from any industry sector – public or private, the programme allows the best of European businesses to showcase their achievements and benchmark their successes against companies of all types.

The CMS Business of the Year is Econcern. This energy company has used innovative funding and business models to come to market quickly with new ideas and technologies which have environmental sustainability and commercial viability at their heart.

Robert Derry Evans, executive partner of CMS, and a category judge, says *“Econcern is just the type of business Europe needs to be creating. It has established itself as a leader in the sustainable energy sector, which is set to grow exponentially, and has innovation coursing throughout the business, from product design through to business models and management. With triple digit growth numbers in a massive global sector that will continue to see exponential growth for the foreseeable future, Econcern has the potential to become one of the world's corporate giants in the next decades.”*

This years Business Awards saw entries from 25 of the 27 member states. Entries flooded in from April 2007, and the exhaustive judging process took 453 working days. There are seven award categories, with each category having a number of ‘Ruban d’Honneur’ recipients. These semi-finalists are then judged again, and one winner declared in each category. Volunteer judges are drawn from business, political and academic circles across Europe, and the lengthy process is known to be daunting for entrants.

The **EUROPEAN BUSINESS AWARDS 2008 WINNERS** are:

The CMS Business of the Year Award

Econcern

www.econcern.com

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Steve Leach, Group CEO of Bigmouthmedia

www.bigmouthmedia.com

The Award for Corporate Sustainability

Procter & Gamble

www.pg.com

The Société Générale Award for Customer Focus

Isuzu Truck (UK) Limited

www.isuzutruck.co.uk

The Business Innovation of the Year Award

Intamac Systems Ltd

www.intamac.com

The Growth Strategy of the Year Award

Petrotechnics Limited

www.petrotechnics.com

The Business Leader of the Year Award

Olli-Pekka Kallasvuo, President and CEO of Nokia

www.nokia.com

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Notes to editors:

CMS member firms are: CMS Adonnino Ascoli & Cavasola Scamoni (Italy); CMS Albiñana & Suárez de Lezo (Spain); CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre (France); CMS Cameron McKenna LLP (UK); CMS DeBacker (Belgium); CMS Derks Star Busmann (Netherlands); CMS von Erlach Henrici (Switzerland); CMS Hasche Sigle (Germany); and CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz (Austria).

CMS in one of the top five legal services providers in Europe measured by fee income, number of offices, number of partners and total headcount. Bloomberg's latest European mid-market and advisory ranked CMS fifth for both deal volume and value (for deals valued between US\$50m and US\$500m), advising on 57 deals totaling US\$11.7 billion in 2007.

CMS has 57 offices in 24 jurisdictions in Western, Central and Eastern Europe, North and South America, Asia and North Africa.

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