

Award is hot stuff for PKL

THE 2010 *Citizen* and *Echo* Business awards will shine the spotlight on excellence and achievement. In the coming weeks we will showcase the entrants and also revisit some of last year's winners.

PKL Group won the *Citizen* and *Echo* Business Innovation Award 2009. Lee Vines, sales and marketing director, reflects on what taking the title meant.

PKL Group is the UK's leading supplier of temporary kitchens and catering equipment for hire. Based in Bishop's Cleeve, just outside Cheltenham, the company owns 900 portable kitchen units and more than 10,000 items of catering equipment, which are readily available for hire throughout the UK and around the world.

PKL supplies to a wide range of clients, both within the public and private sectors, including local authorities, contract caterers, prisons, schools, UK and international events and the Ministry of Defence, providing portable kitchens to enable the continuation of food service provision during times of refurbishment or emergency, to help increase catering capacity

BW by business writer **Robin Brooks**

on a temporary basis or to provide event catering facilities. In 2009, PKL won the award for Business Innovation and was runner up in the Business of the Year Category at the Gloucestershire Business awards. The awards were in recognition of a number of innovative products and services including the PKL KitchenPod, a complete modular kitchen building for primary schools, and for work undertaken supplying large scale temporary kitchen solutions around the world, including the complete Athletes' Village kitchen and dining facilities at the Beijing Olympic Games.

The awards also recognised the innovative culture, which is present throughout the company, where staff are encouraged to take responsibility for the development and implementation of new ideas that can enhance service to the company's customers and aid product development.

On winning the award, sales and marketing director Lee Vines said: "PKL were delighted to have won the award for Business

Innovation and also to have been named runner up in the Business of the Year category.

"We also received a Queen's Award for Enterprise in the International Trade Category in 2009, so this, along with the business awards received by the company, not only gave our staff well-deserved recognition for all of their hard work, but also presented a number of opportunities to generate PR via stories in the industry press and also via more permanent vehicles, such as our website, while the award sits proudly in our reception area.

"Winning awards such as this, helps to enhance our company profile as a supplier of innovative products and gives recognition to the level of service and quality that we aim to provide with every contract undertaken by the company."

● The 2010 *Citizen* and *Echo* Business Awards have 10 categories and culminate in a glittering awards dinner at the Centaur, Cheltenham Racecourse, on October 7. For details of how to register your interest to enter the awards, visit www.southwestbusiness.co.uk or please fill in the entry coupon on this page.



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COOKING ON GAS: Krista Auckland, Chris Irving and Lee Vines



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The Citizen and Gloucestershire ECHO BUSINESS AWARDS 2010

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Ten years of triumph as a leading educator

The University of Gloucestershire is sponsoring the Business Innovation category in the Citizen and Echo Business Awards 2010. Here we profile the university's Centre for Enterprise and Innovation

THE UNIVERSITY of Gloucestershire is passionate about providing good futures for our students, staff and the community of we which we are a part.

As we enter our 10th anniversary as a university, we continue helping people learn, challenging unsustainable thinking, reducing environmental footprints, improving opportunities, sharing knowledge and enabling learning from each other.

Innovation and creative thinking, combined with valuable work experience and placements, make our students stand out from the crowd. We apply these principles of innovation, creativity and enterprise

not only to our students, but also in the considerable work we do with our local business community.

The university, through our Centre for Enterprise and Innovation, is committed to developing itself into a more enterprising space, for staff, students and local businesses.

We are achieving this through our partnership with local businesses, delivering placements, collaborative Knowledge Transfer Partnership projects and undergraduate,

postgraduate and professional courses.

We are also growing our provision, through innovations such as the free graduate placement scheme Graduate Challenge, through innovative work-based learning and accreditation, and through its newly-launched professional short course programme.

The university is developing as an enterprising choice, through its work helping develop student entrepreneurs, and its work

with public, private and third sector organisations.

It is delighted to once again offer its support of the *Citizen* and *Echo* Business Awards and to sponsor the Business Innovation award.

"Innovation is critical to the survival of all our organisations and a behaviour we must encourage in our teams, particularly as we all navigate our way through challenging times," said Carolyn Howe, enterprise manager.

Registration card

- Business of the Year Award
- Small Business of the Year Award
- Business Innovation Award
- Apprentice Development Award
- Family Business of the Year Award
- Environmental Award
- Young Business of the Year Award
- Communicator of the Year Award
- Corporate Social Responsibility Award
- Young Business Person Of The Year Award

Please tick the appropriate box(es)
Note: You may enter more than one award

Name of company: _____

Contact: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Type of business/industry: _____

Number of employees: _____

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The Citizen and Gloucestershire ECHO BUSINESS AWARDS 2010

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Return this form to register your interest in entering the awards to: Gill Brimfield, The Citizen & Echo Business Awards, Gloucestershire Media, 1 Clarence Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 3NY. Alternatively, register online at: www.southwestbusiness.co.uk/businessawards to view details and download an entry pack or email gill.brimfield@glosmedia.co.uk requesting a Business Awards pack.

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