

OXFORD INNOVATION LTD

PRESS RELEASE – 10 November 2005

Winners celebrate Success at Martin and Audrey Wood Enterprise Awards

Celebrating Innovators and Entrepreneurs

Over 150 representatives from the business, technology, research and investment communities in Oxfordshire and beyond gathered at Culham Science Centre last night as the winners of the Martin and Audrey Wood Enterprise Awards 2005 were chosen. It was the inaugural year for the Awards, which focus on innovative and technology-based companies and promising entrepreneurs, and were established in honour of Sir Martin and Lady (Audrey) Wood, co-founders of Oxford Instruments plc.

The Finalists made 5 minute presentations before the Winners were announced.

The Winner of the Best Innovation Award was: Siemens Molecular Imaging, formerly Mirada Solutions, an Oxford University spin-out company that develops innovative medical imaging software. Vice-President, Chris Behrenbruch, received the Award from Lynn Shepherd, Head of Corporate Communications at Oxford Instruments plc, who sponsored the Awards.

Runners-Up for the Best Innovation Award were: Avidex Ltd, a growing biotechnology company developing novel treatments for cancer, inflammation and autoimmune diseases and Oxonica plc, the first pure nanotechnology company to float on AIM.

The Winner of the Best New Technology Company Award was: Oxsensis Ltd, a spin-out company from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory which is developing ultra-high temperature sensors for use in gas turbines, and jet engines to improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions. Chief Executive, David Gahan, received the Award from Liz Brighouse, a Board member of SEEDA, who sponsored the Awards.

Runners-Up for the Best New Technology Company Award were: Infinitesima Ltd, the developer and manufacturer of an atomic force microscope which produces ultra-fast images for research use and Oxitec Ltd, which is developing environmentally friendly technology to control insects and insect borne diseases.

The Winner of the Up and Coming Entrepreneur Award was: Dr Edward Green, Chief Executive Officer of Green Biologics Ltd, which has developed a technology to exploit the properties of heat-loving micro-organisms (called thermophiles) that can be used to accelerate composting times for biodegradable waste. The company is also developing a novel solvent system to remove chewing gum waste from pavements. Dr Green received his Award from Ian Laing, co-founder of Milton Park and High Sheriff of Oxfordshire.

Runners-Up for the Up and Coming Entrepreneur Award were: David Gahan, Chief Executive Officer of Oxsensis Ltd, and Gareth Reakes, Managing Director of Parthenon Ltd, which provides entrepreneurs, start-ups and innovative companies with bespoke software development and consulting services to turn their visions into business realities.

The Awards were organised by Oxford Innovation, which supports innovative companies and entrepreneurs through Innovation Centres and Investment Networks.

Dr David Kingham, Chief Executive of Oxford Innovation, said:

“We congratulate the Winners of the inaugural Martin & Audrey Wood Enterprise Awards, who were selected from a large number of very high quality entries. The Judging Panel would also like to acknowledge the achievements of everyone who entered these Awards, which showcased a wealth of innovation and entrepreneurial talent in companies and individuals in Oxfordshire and the Thames Valley. It is quite remarkable how new technology firms can, within a few years of formation, have such a major impact on healthcare, the environment and energy efficiency.”

The Awards included cash prizes plus free business accommodation, business advice, accountancy support and PR worth over £27,000. Following the presentation, guests enjoyed an opportunity for informal networking during a Reception. The Winners and Runners-Up attended a private dinner hosted by Sir Martin and Lady (Audrey) Wood, with other guests including some of Oxfordshire’s leading entrepreneurs.

The Martin & Audrey Wood Enterprise Awards 2005 were sponsored by: the South East England Development Agency, Oxford Instruments plc, Grant Thornton, UKAEA Fusion and Oxford Innovation. The Reception was sponsored by Marks & Clerk.



Dr Edward Green, CEO of Green Biologics Ltd receives the Award for Up and Coming Entrepreneur from Ian Laing, co-founder of Milton Park and High Sheriff of Oxfordshire.

PRESS RELEASE ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. OXFORD INNOVATION LTD

Press enquiries to: Margaret Henry, Company Secretary & PR Manager.

Tel: +44 (0)1865 811199 Email: m.henry@oxin.co.uk www.oxin.co.uk

ABOUT THE MARTIN AND AUDREY WOOD ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2005

The Judging Panel for the Martin and Audrey Wood Enterprise Awards 2005 is:

- Sir Martin and Lady (Audrey) Wood, co-founders, Oxford Instruments plc
- Dr Andrew Rickman, Founder, Bookham Inc
- Professor Ian Page, Manager, Seven Spires Investments
- Dr Basil Omar, Senior Manager, National Technology Group, Grant Thornton
- Dr David Kingham, Chief Executive, Oxford Innovation

Award Winners will receive: a cash prize, the offer of free space in one of Oxford Innovation's offices or laboratories for one year, free accountancy support from Grant Thornton and a press release to promote their achievements in the media.

For further information: www.oxin.co.uk/enterpriseawards

ABOUT OXFORD INNOVATION

Oxford Innovation provides services to innovative start-up companies, and to government bodies that promote enterprise. It is the UK's leading operator of Innovation Centres, managing 12 Innovation Centres that provide flexible office and laboratory space to over 400 technology, knowledge-based and creative companies.

Oxford Innovation manages Oxfordshire Investment Opportunity Network (OION www.oion.co.uk), Europe's most successful technology business angel network that links investors with entrepreneurs seeking funding from £150,000 to £2 million. OION has helped 74 companies raise £17.3m in the last five years.

Oxford Innovation also runs Thames Valley Investment Network (www.tvin.co.uk), which holds monthly investment meetings where selected entrepreneurs present their business proposals to investor members in Reading and surrounding areas, and Oxford Early Investments (www.oxei.co.uk), a new investment network to help very early stage companies raise finance of up to £150,000.