



Produce World Marshalls Shines in Awards Scheme

October 2011

The first ever internal awards scheme held by the Produce World Group have proved to be a great success according to the Group's CEO William Burgess. The awards, called The Pride of Produce World, were announced at a ceremony last Friday, held at the Peterborough Marriott. Nominations were considered from the Group's five companies in the UK, as well as its headquarters in Peterborough.

William said: "As a business we have invested a lot of time and money in developing our staff and empowering them to play a greater role in their workplaces. Our CSR programme is award-winning and encourages people to take responsibility both inside and outside the workplace. We have had a really good response to this first awards scheme and it's great to see some excellent examples of this philosophy in action. The awards scheme has allowed us to recognise just some of the individuals who contribute to our ongoing success."



Among the winners was the HQ-based IT department, which walked away with the coveted title of **Team of the Year**. This was in recognition of its work in re-locating the company's server room. Head of IT Simon Callow said: "In a business the size of Produce World, spread across a number of sites, and with sophisticated IT supporting its operations, this was no easy task. The team work tirelessly, often working late or coming in at weekends in order to deliver the project ahead of time. They are all delighted to receive this recognition."

A total of four awards were made and the other three all went to staff at Produce World Marshalls, the Group's Brassica business based at Boston in Lincolnshire. Factory Manager Richard Heppleston was awarded the title of **Colleague of the Year** for his work in leading the processing team. The award for **Outstanding Innovation of the Year** went to the Field Factory, which has been introduced to allow broccoli to be packed in the field.



Forklift truck driver Kevin Forman won the award for **Community Impact**. Produce World's innovative corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme encourages staff from the company to become involved in their local communities, and Kevin is a member of the Parish Council, a Governor at the local primary school, and a fundraiser for playground facilities for local children in his village of Butterwick.

William said: “The fact that the team at Produce World Marshalls have made such an impact in the first year of our internal awards is a great credit to the management and staff at the company. We have all been working hard over the past two years to integrate the company into the business as a whole, and this performance is just one indicator of how successful we have been. I would like to add my congratulations to all the award winners.”

Ends



Richard Heppleston receives his award from William Burgess



The field factory at work processing broccoli

Hi Res versions of all pictures are available from the Produce World Press Office (See below)

Notes for Editors

Produce World is one of the largest expert growers and suppliers of high quality fresh vegetables in Europe. It is a privately owned business, founded by the Burgess family in 1898, and the family ethos and values remain in place. The Produce World business is customer and category focused and it is an industry leader in sustainable and responsible agronomy, growing and lean supply chain management. Its sourcing is a combination of produce from its own farms, joint-ventures, and collaborative working with dedicated grower groups, supplying a variety of root vegetables, potatoes, brassicas, alliums, and organic produce to leading retailers, food service and manufacturing customers.

Produce World Group companies include Produce World Solanum Ltd, Produce World IFP Ltd, Produce World RBO Ltd, Produce World Rustler Ltd, Produce World Marshalls Ltd, Agromark SA, and Growing Trust with Las Lomas (joint venture).

The company received the Waitrose Technical Excellence Award in June 2011, as well as the re:fresh Innovation of the Year and Packer of the Year awards in May 2011. Its Growing Trust CSR programme, established in 2007, prioritises Responsible Sourcing, along with Environmental Stewardship, Community Impact and Workplace Culture.

Media Enquiries:

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