

PRESS RELEASE

21st July 2011

National Business Awards Judges Announced 2011

The National Business Awards in partnership with Orange announced this morning, Thursday 21st July, that Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone, is to chair this year's judging programme where 100 of the country's leading CEOs, Entrepreneurs and Senior Directors, also announced today, are to assess and reward Britain's most promising and successful companies.

"I am delighted to have been appointed as Chair of Judges for the National Business Awards 2011. There are so many great innovators and entrepreneurs in the UK. I look forward to helping to identify and reward Britain's leading businesses with the 100 judges or so taking part in this year's exciting programme," said Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone.

2011 judges include Julie Meyer, CEO, Ariadne Capital; Sherry Coutu, Investment Committee, Nesta; Martin Stiven, VP of Business at Orange, part of Everything Everywhere; Mr Eric Van der Kleij, Chief Advisor to UK Government's Directorate for Investment, UK Trade & Investment; Martin McCourt, CEO, Dyson; Sir Roger Bone, President, Boeing UK; and Simon Calver, CEO, LOVEFiLM.

Commenting on the judging process, Anthony Salz, Executive Vice-Chairman of Rothschild, also judging the National Business Awards said: *"The awards give due recognition to the talents and efforts of some special individuals - and it is rather special to be involved in choosing the winners."*

Richard North, MD, Wow! Stuff, 2010 Orange Innovation Award winner and 2011 Entrepreneur of the Year judge is particularly excited about the leaders of tomorrow: *"Like writing your business plan, I personally found that entering the National Business Awards really refreshes, tests and crystallises your company strategy and vision. Each entrepreneur is as different and diverse as the businesses they create or run. I will be on the lookout for the stars of the future. I want to see how smaller businesses and entrepreneurs are taking an idea to market, how they have overcome the obstacles to get to where they are today, and how they are nurturing the business and preparing for future growth."*

A series of judging events for the 17 awards categories will be held in September and October at the offices of Coutts & Co at 30 St Mary's Axe and The Soho Hotel in London. The judging sessions will be hosted and co-chaired by Alex Evans, Editorial Director of the National Business Awards (NBA); Professor Dominic Swords, Henley Business School and Economist; and Damian Reece, Head of Business Telegraph Media Group & Chair of the NBA Advisory Board.

Caroline Jackson Levy, Managing Director of UBM Awards said: *"I am delighted to welcome Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone as Chair of Judges to the 2011 programme. The National Business Awards honour outstanding achievement to give leading businesses the recognition they deserve and Baroness Bottomley will add enormous value to the programme. I would also like to thank our judges across all industries for taking part this year. Their combined knowledge and expertise will allow us to judge businesses of all shapes and sizes from every corner of this country."*

Visit www.nationalbusinessawards.co.uk for a full list of all the judges.

2011 award categories range from the Santander SME of the Year to the Croner Employer of the Year through to the ICAEW Sustainability Award. New categories include the BlackBerry Business Enabler of the Year, WorldPay Online Business of the Year and Transformational Change of the Year.

Finalists will be announced on the 2nd August and winners will be honoured at the National Business Awards gala dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, Tuesday 8th November, where George Osborne, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will deliver this year's welcome address.

- Ends -

Notes for editor:

About the National Business Awards

Open to organisations of all sizes from all sectors across the UK, the National Business Awards in partnership with Orange is the UK's most prestigious independent business recognition platform with its particular emphasis on excellence, innovation and ethical business. Now in its tenth year, the National Business Awards connects the nations' professionals through its annual awards ceremony; year-round thought leadership and round table events; and is UBM plc's flagship awards programme. Visit www.nationalbusinessawards.co.uk for further information.

About the National Business Awards Chair of Judges

Rt Hon Baroness Bottomley of Nettlestone DL, Virginia, chairs the Odgers Berndtson Board Practice. The Board Practice conducts searches for Chairmen, Chief Executives and Non-Executive Directors for plcs and private companies. Virginia is a member of the Supervisory Board of AkzoNobel NV, a NED on BUPA and a Trustee of The Economist Newspaper.

As part of her pro-bono activities, Virginia is Chancellor of the University of Hull and a Governor of the London School of Economics. She is a member of the UK Advisory Council of the International Chamber of Commerce and sits on the Council of The Ditchley Foundation.

Formerly, Virginia held several Ministerial positions in the British Government with Margaret Thatcher and John Major, including her role as the Cabinet Minister responsible for Health and subsequently National Heritage (now Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport). Virginia was appointed a Life Peer in 2005. Following her first degree, Virginia gained an MSc in Social Administration from the London School of Economics.

For further information please contact:

Henriette Svensen

Head of PR & Marketing

UBM Awards

Tel: 020 7234 8753 / 07500 917 628

Email: henriette.svensen@ubm.com