

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Last call for teams to enter innovation awards

Award scheme to celebrate the success of knowledge transfer closes for entries 1 May 2009

Innovators have just over a week left to enter a new award scheme designed to recognise and celebrate the success of knowledge transfer. Entries to The Impact Awards close on 1 May and are invited from all sectors of research that have made an outstanding impact through successful knowledge transfer.

The Impact Awards will raise awareness of the potential of knowledge transfer activities by demonstrating best practice and impact. Organised by Unico (the UK's leading knowledge transfer membership association), The Impact Awards will showcase the very best examples of knowledge transfer activity.

Sponsored by BDO Stoy Hayward, Research Councils UK (RCUK) and Praxis, the awards offer the chance for teams to win accolades in three categories: Business Impact Award; Public Policy and Service Impact Award and Environmental Impact Award.

The awards will also celebrate the success of collaborative working and the process of transferring knowledge and expertise beyond the research bases of higher education and the public sector for the wider benefit of society and economy.

continued

Professor David Secher, Unico Chairman, said, "Innovation is vital to our economy and this is a perfect opportunity to showcase innovations that have benefited from knowledge transfer activities." He continued, "I would urge those involved in driving innovation from research to enter The Impact Awards. In these challenging economic times it is now more important than ever that investment in innovation continues and high-profile events such as The Impact Awards will help to raise awareness of how those innovations are making a real impact."

To enter The Impact Awards and to have an opportunity to showcase projects to peers, opinion leaders, potential collaborators or partners, entrants must register their submission online at www.impactawards.org.uk.

After the closing date on 1 May 2009, a judging panel, Chaired by Dr David Owen OBE, will select winners in each category. Winners will be announced at The Impact Awards ceremony, held at the Unico Conference Gala Dinner, Brighton Racecourse, on Thursday evening, 11 June 2009.

Full details of the award categories, entry criteria and process can be found at The Impact Awards web site www.impactawards.org.uk, or email info@impactawards.org.uk, or call 01223 422085.

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Notes to Editors

1. Unico is the UK's leading Knowledge Transfer membership association. Unico members realise the potential of university and public sector research through commercialisation.

2. Categories are sponsored by:
 - Business Impact Award – *BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, UK member firm of BDO International, the world's fifth largest accountancy network*
 - Public Policy and Service Impact Award – *Research Councils UK, the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils*
 - Environmental Impact Award – *Praxis Courses Ltd, providers of inspirational training courses for knowledge transfer and commercialisation professionals*