

NEWS RELEASE

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Growing East Midlands businesses celebrate outstanding achievements

Last night, East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) hosted the HighGrowth East Midlands Awards to celebrate the achievements of companies participating in its flagship business support programme, HighGrowth East Midlands.

200 business representatives from across the East Midlands gathered at the black-tie event at Nottingham's Belfry Hotel to congratulate and recognise the successes of fellow members. Keynote speakers

Bryan Jackson, *emda*'s Chairman and Derbyshire based entrepreneur and star of Secret Millionaire, Kavita Oberoi, joined the BBC's Anne Davies, who hosted the awards, to honour the programme's top achievers.



The Growth Enabler Professional Excellence Award was presented to coach and MCCR Associate Andrew Woodward from Hilltop Partners in High Peak, Derbyshire. The award is reserved for a business coach who has participated in the Growth Enabler professional development programme, which is designed to enhance the quality of business coaching available across the East Midlands.

On receiving his award Andrew said: "I am delighted to win this award in front of such a strong field of finalists. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the businesses that I have coached through HighGrowth East Midlands, without them winning this award would not have been possible".

Speaking at the awards dinner, Bryan Jackson, *emda*'s Chairman, said: "The

standard of winners that we have seen this evening is a glowing endorsement of the business talent we have in the region as well as being a really positive indicator for our region's future".

"The HighGrowth East Midlands programme represents our commitment to help the region's high growth businesses and we believe that our continued investment in support for high growth businesses is vital. That is why *emda* and the European Regional Development Fund are together committing a further £3 million to a new three year programme, called Coaching for High Growth, which will be in place in April to help a new generation of potential high growth businesses."

Launched in January 2008, more than 160 companies from across the East Midlands have participated in HighGrowth East Midlands. Since its launch, HighGrowth East Midlands has created or safeguarded nearly 1,000 jobs across 160 participating businesses and is forecast to collectively increase the Gross Value Added (GVA) of those businesses by £60 million.

Comprising two programmes, Growth Readiness and High Growth, it is designed to increase profits, enhance competitiveness and create the conditions for long-term success. For many participants, it is providing the extra bit of help that businesses need to turn the challenges of the current economic climate into opportunities for growth.

HighGrowth East Midlands is funded by *emda* and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

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