

# Excellence awards now whittled down to finalists

**Entrants:** 115 applicants narrowed down to 27 'outstanding' candidates

BY ERIKKA ASKELAND

Entrants in the 15th annual Grampian Awards for Business Excellence were celebrating after reaching the final stages of the competition.

Finalists in the awards scheme, which is run by Enterprise North East Trust along with headline sponsors RBS - Ahead For Business, have been narrowed down to 27 finalists from a total of 115 applicants.

Gary McEwan, chief executive of Enterprise, said the competition received a record number of registrations from local businesses, up 16% on last year.

He said: "These figures demonstrate that there is a

high volume of talented entrepreneurs and businesses in the north-east.

"The awards support and showcase the success of entrepreneurship in business and we are delighted to see such a good variety of businesses

**"This year's finalists are truly outstanding"**

reaching the final stages of the competition."

Mike Fergusson, RBS director of commercial banking, added: "This year's finalists are truly outstanding and reflect the diversity of business in the North-east of Scotland.

These organisations have achieved exceptional success even during tough economic conditions and they should all be very proud. RBS is honoured to support the awards and I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the finalists and wish them every success for the final."

The black tie awards gala ceremony will be held at the Mercure Aberdeen Ardoe House Hotel on Thursday 26 June 2014.

**Finalists in nine of the 10 awards categories are:**

**Most Promising New Business:** FlexTech, Graham Dawson Body & Paintshop, and The Food Story Café  
**Business Success Under Three Years:** Auto Verdi,



Gary McEwan, chief executive of Enterprise North East Trust, has praised this year's entrants

Granite Park, SengS Subsea Engineering Solutions  
**Business Success Over Three Years:** Blaze Manufacturing Solutions, Grampian Continental, Inoapps

**The Grampian Award for Innovation:** Meta, Novabiotics, and Town Rock Energy  
**The 'Spirit of Enterprise' Award:** Prime Event Management, Stompers/Technoplay,

and Tide Studio  
**Enterprising Communities Award:** Aberdeen Sports Village, CLAN Cancer Support, and Home-Start Aberdeen

**Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year:** Ben Iravani of Monkey Bars Aberdeen, James Gregg of Motive Offshore, and Barry Park of OEM Diesel Products

**Employer of the Year:** Accord Energy Solutions, Bowtech Products, Indigo

**Entrepreneurial Supporter of the Year:** Andrew Smith of ABNCommunity, Liz Pirie of Business Gateway, and Simon Morgan of Business Network Scotland/Grampian WeddingDirectory/Your Wedding Exhibition/House of Morgan