

Press Release

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Grand Final, Grand Awards

This year's Grand Final of the FSB Hertfordshire Small Business Awards was held at Tewin Bury Farm on Thursday the 13th of May. The **btc** were the proud sponsors of the Staff Training and Development Award that was just one of the 11 categories in which small businesses from the region could enter. The Grand Final was a 'Black Tie' event in which many of the most prominent organisations associated with small businesses in and around the Hertfordshire region were involved. This included organisations such as the University of Hertfordshire, Stevenage Borough Council and of course the **btc**.

"It was a lovely evening" said Stephen Scowcroft who is the Head of Advisory at Wenta. "The **btc** have supported this year's FSB awards right from the beginning and held the 'Meet the Judges' and 'Networking' events in the conference centre at the **btc**. It was therefore great to meet the winners of the Staff Training and Development Award, Swan Fostering Ltd and the runners-up Epitome Health & Beauty at the Grand Final and see them receiving the recognition they deserve".

If you would like to hold a conference at the **btc** or find out about how the centre helps get start-ups off the ground and grow existing business please visit call: 0845 0780700

Notes

- The **btc** is owned by Stevenage Borough Council and managed by Wenta Innovation, a division of Wenta one of the leading Enterprise Agencies in the East of England.
- The **btc** was re-launched in November 2009 following a multi million pound development to transform the centre into the primary Innovation and Technology Centre in Hertfordshire, aimed at supporting knowledge based businesses and promoting innovation within the local community. This exciting new development is the Council's vision to create quality business space and support in the heart of the town's business community and it is part of a £7M investment funded jointly by the Council and EEDA, the Regional Development Agency and the Government Growth Area Fund.
- The **btc** is the longest serving Enterprise Hub within the region promoting networking, the sharing of knowledge and cross trading. Working to develop innovation and inspire enterprise, the **btc** also works with local schools, colleges, regional agencies, other enterprise hubs and universities to offer educational visits, work experience, mentoring and training.
- Wenta is a not for profit organisation independently funded through the ownership and management of its two business centres in Watford and Potters Bar and management of the **btc** in Stevenage. These business centres comprise workshops and offices with a combined space of over 100,000 square feet, let on monthly licence terms to small businesses. Wenta also attract funding from a number of public sector organisations including Business Link East, Job Centre Plus, local authorities in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire and EEDA.
- In addition to incubation and managed workspace Wenta's service offering includes business advice, guidance, training, graduate and undergraduate work placements and a comprehensive enterprise awareness programme to schools, colleges, and universities.