

The North West Society of Chartered Accountants is proud to announce its 8th Annual Accountancy and Business Awards.

This premier event celebrates Lancashire and Cumbria as among the best areas in which to do business, and the outstanding achievements of its businesses, their people and professional advisers in this challenging economic climate.

The flagship award for Business of the Year will recognise dynamic performance and other essential qualities such as entrepreneurial spirit and strong financial performance.

The Awards are an opportunity to encourage other businesses in Lancashire and Cumbria to achieve yet greater things and prove what a great place it is to work and live.

I encourage you to submit nominations for the various categories in this launch brochure, and wish you all the very best.

Les Bury President NWSCA 2011/12

icaew.com/northwest

HOW TO ENTER

All awards are open to firms/ organisations and ICAEW members/ individuals within the North West Society of Chartered Accountants region – Lancashire, Cumbria and South Lakeland ('NWSCA region').

Submissions which are made for offices, businesses or individuals which or who are **not** in the NWSCA region will be ineligible.

Entries may be made by a business/ individual or on behalf of a business/ individual (eg, by a colleague/client or other third party).

Initial nominations should be 300 words and should be provided on a typed document preferably via email or alternatively by post.

All information will be treated in strict confidence.

Shortlisted businesses or organisations entered in the Business of the Year or Innovation Award categories may be visited in October/November as part of the final judging process.

Shortlisted firms entered in the Accountancy Firm of the Year category may be asked to present to the judging panel in late October/November as part of the final judging process.

Companies/individuals in all other categories will be contacted for further information if necessary.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Shortlisted candidates will be notified before the awards dinner on 24 November 2011, and will be invited to attend the event (at their own cost). The winners of each category will be announced on the evening.

Winners may promote their success on business stationery and in marketing materials (a winner's logo will be supplied on request).

ENTRY DEADLINE

Entries must be received by 17:00 on 12 October 2011, at the NWSCA office address shown below.

Entries must be sent for the attention of:

Clare Parisi
North West Society of Chartered Accountants
PO Box 1260
Preston
PR2 0NY

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COMPETITION TIME FRAME

LAUNCH OF AWARDS

Stanley House Hotel, Mellor,
near Blackburn
7 September 2011

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF NOMINATIONS

12 October 2011

JUDGES MEET TO DECIDE SHORTLIST

17 October 2011

FINAL JUDGING TO DECIDE WINNERS

10 November 2011

AWARDS DINNER

Ribby Hall, Wrea Green, near Preston
24 November 2011



ALSO SUPPORTED BY

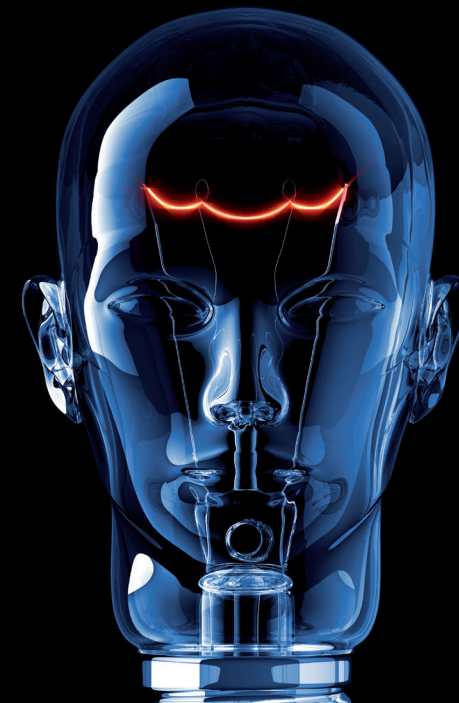
**LANCASHIRE
BUSINESSVIEW**

 Begbies Traynor

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 **NORTH WEST
SOCIETY OF
CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS**

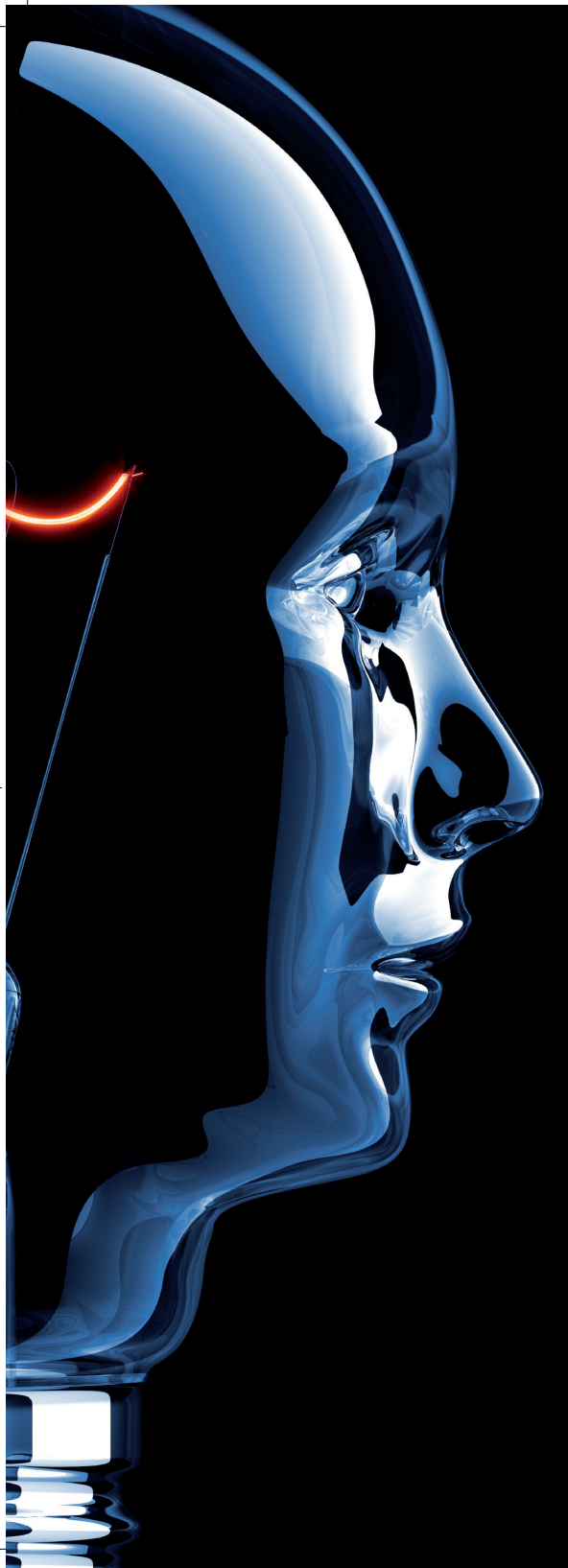
NWSCA AWARDS



BUSINESS WITH CONFIDENCE

Main sponsor

 **RBS**
The Royal Bank of Scotland



ACCOUNTANCY RISING STAR



This award aims to recognise a talented, qualified accountant who has left practice and is currently working in industry and making a positive contribution to their company. All ICAEW members and students under the age of 36 are eligible to enter. The following qualities and attributes will determine the judges' decisions.

- Consistently improving processes and procedures.
- Financial control and compliance, demonstrating a high degree of technical ability.
- Innovating and adding value to their organisation.
- Quick progression and consistent record of achievement throughout career.
- Commitment to personal development.

ACCOUNTANCY RISING STAR (in practice)



This award celebrates the profession's brightest prospect in practice and will go to a talented accountant who is showing great promise early in their career. All ICAEW members and students under the age of 36 are eligible to enter. The following qualities and attributes will determine the judges' decisions.

- Professional and technical expertise.
- Commitment to personal and professional development.
- Building productive relationships with clients affected by the downturn.
- Involvement with the broader community.
- Determination to contribute to the success of their employer, colleagues and clients.

ACCOUNTANCY FIRM OF THE YEAR



This award recognises the work of accountancy firms, small or large, whose strong professional relationships, commercial awareness, and innovative services have helped clients to come through the recession and look ahead with optimism. The following qualities and attributes will determine the judges' decisions.

- The firm's record of servicing and retaining clients.
- Demonstrable success at winning new clients.
- How the firm has developed an effective training and development programme to better meet the needs of its employees and clients.
- Evidence of the firm delivering value-adding, innovative or new services to help clients in the face of recessionary pressures.
- Commitment to corporate social responsibility.

RBS BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



Among the most coveted accolades in the North West, this award is open to every business, irrespective of size or sector. It recognises the achievements of a business that has defied economic pessimism to display entrepreneurial ambition, sharp market focus, strong financial performance and a positive commitment to stakeholders. The following qualities and attributes will determine the judges' decisions.

- Impressive financial and business management.
- Competitiveness and innovation.
- Excellence in driving sales, marketing and customer relations.
- Prioritising the wellbeing of its people.
- Commitment to corporate social responsibility.

INNOVATION AWARD



We are looking for a business or organisation that has really pushed the boundaries of how they operate, either through developing new products or services, finding new ways of delivering existing products or services, or identifying new ways of operating. Criteria could include the following (although not an exhaustive list).

- Finding solutions to customer problems.
- Using adversity to create opportunity.
- Working with suppliers and customers in a different way.
- Developing a unique business culture.
- Ability to develop new products or solutions.

BEST NEWCOMER



This award is open to any young professional* or enterprise that started in business since January 2009. The best newcomer is the one to watch, demonstrating great promise within the Lancashire and Cumbria business community.

The following qualities and attributes will determine the judges' decisions.

- Evidence of success to date.
- Obstacles nominees have surmounted on the road to success.
- Contribution to the firm or industry within the Lancashire and Cumbria community.
- Plans for the future and how these ambitions will be achieved.

*30 years old or younger

SUBMISSION DETAILS

For the first stage of the judging, you are invited to submit a rationale of 300 words maximum, explaining why you/ the candidate deserves to win the award, using the criteria detailed in the relevant award details above as guidance.