

# Innovation is alive in the Valleys

**The fourth annual Innovation Awards in the Heads of the Valleys demonstrate how creativity and innovation have made an impact on the businesses in the region**

**I**nnovation plays a key role in a business's route to growth. The Heads of the Valleys Innovation Awards celebrate innovation in businesses across the region. In 2010, a phenomenal 57 businesses entered the Awards – a clear demonstration that innovation is alive and thriving in the Valleys. The 2010 Award winners are:

**Most Innovative Social Enterprise**

*(sponsored by Capital Law)*

**Telecentre and Business School.**

The company runs the first incubation service in Wales for social enterprises and helps unemployed and economically inactive people get back into work, providing training services, personal development plans and basic skills as well as encouraging entrepreneurial activity.

**Most Innovative Sole Trader**

*(sponsored by HSBC)*

**School of Life.**

An organisation dedicated to presenting helpful ideas in humorous ways, their unique approach uses a combination of stand-up comedy, multimedia and original music to communicate important life skills to pupils in secondary schools and sixth-form colleges throughout England and Wales. The business owner performs at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and is extending the portfolio of services to corporate clients.

**Most Innovative Business with less than 20 employees**

*(sponsored by South Wales Chamber of Commerce)*

**RUMM (Remote Utility Monitoring and Management) Ltd.**

RUMM aims to protect the environment and reduce costs by using innovative technology and a proven methodology to reduce carbon emissions, achieving large



Top: BBC Sports presenter, Jason Mohammad, and 'smoothie bike'. Above: 2010 Award winners and sponsors

savings for local economies and reducing their impact on the environment. The 'RUMM Pulse', for example, acquires data from any type of utility meter.

**Most Innovative Business with more than 20 employees**

*(sponsored by BT)*

**Williams Medical Supplies.**

The company is the leading provider of medical supplies and services to the UK healthcare market. The Medical Services Division has diversified the business and is a novel 'one stop shop' for GPs covering test and calibration, infection control,

mercury disposal and surgery financial services.

**Most Innovative Exhibitor**

*(sponsored by the Welsh Assembly Government Flexible Support for Business)*

**St David's Foundation Hospice Care for their 'smoothie bike'**

*(see the video on [www.hovip.org.uk](http://www.hovip.org.uk))*

Phil Burkhard, HOVIP programme manager, said: "This has been the most successful Awards and is an excellent example of public and private sector organisations working together."

The 2010 event, which attracted over 200 visitors, was sponsored by the University of Wales Global Academy. Global Academy's Richard Turner, said: "The level of creativity and innovation increases each year. This highlights that the Heads of the Valleys region is becoming more innovative and more competitive, due in no small part to the work of HOVIP and other initiatives such as the Prince of Wales Innovation Scholarships."

Phil Burkhard continues, "We are creating an 'innovation ladder' – as well as our own Awards, HOVIP sponsors an innovation category in several local authority business awards, with the winners gaining automatic entry to the regional Heads of the Valleys Awards. In turn, the winners of the HoV Innovation Awards are entered into the Wales Innovation Awards – a great encouragement and additional benefit for all entrants as well as another way to embed a culture of innovation in the region." ■ *Phil Burkhard, HOVIP manager.*

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*For more about HOVIP and winners of the 2010 Innovation Awards, visit [www.hovip.org.uk](http://www.hovip.org.uk)*

