

Press notice from BGB Innovation

25th September 2009

BGB Innovation presented with Queen's Award Employees share in firm's outstanding business achievement

Grantham based manufacturer, BGB Innovation received a Royal visitor on 24th September when the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire, Mr Tony Worth, came to the firm's premises at Dysart Road, Grantham to present the firm with a Queen's Award for Enterprise for its outstanding business success.

BGB won its Queen's Award in the International Trade category in April this year. The firm specialises in electrical slip ring assemblies, brush holders and lightning protection for rotary applications and underwater lighting & camera solutions and was commended for achieving continual exporting ability and maintaining export figures of over 90 per cent of turnover year after year.

The ceremony included the official opening of the new R&D laboratory and factory extension. The company has expanded for a second time in under three years with a 468m² factory extension at its Dysart Road address. "We were able to build a new Research & Development block alongside the new extension through the help given to us by emda (East Midlands Development Agency) and procurement of the land from South Kesteven District Council" said David T Holt, BGB Managing Director. "The new extension will not only make us more competitive in the world market, but also increase our capacity and create new jobs in the local area."

Speaking about the company and the support they have received, John O'Reilly, emda's Business Support Director, said: "The fact that BGB received the Queen's Award for Enterprise is testament to the success of the company. The business is expanding rapidly and I am delighted that we have been able to assist them in this growth by providing the grants needed in order to achieve the next stage of their development.

"The Grant for Research and Development (GRD) has helped BGB to develop innovative new ideas and the Grant for Business Investment (GBI) has enabled the company to expand its factory in order to manufacture these new products."

At the presentation ceremony, BGB were presented with a crystal bowl engraved with The Queen's Awards Emblem as a symbol of its success as well as a grant of appointment. The company is now also entitled to use the Emblem in all its marketing and on packaging for the next five years, here and abroad.

Mr Holt comments: "The Queen's Award for Enterprise is the UK's highest honour for business success, so we're extremely proud to have achieved this Royal standard of excellence. The presentation ceremony has been a wonderful opportunity to share this success with everyone connected to our business, especially the staff. These are very worthwhile Awards – I'd recommend them to any business which can prove it is amongst the best in its field."

The Queen's Awards for Enterprise exist to champion the UK's most enterprising, creative and sustainable organisations – from all business sectors. Applications for the 2010 Awards are now being invited. Companies can apply for an Award in three categories – International Trade, Innovation or Sustainable Development. It costs nothing to enter, and The Awards are open to any UK-based business with two or more employees. For more information, visit www.queensawards.org.uk

ENDS

Words: 522

Pictures attached.

For further press information on BGB Innovation please contact:

James Tupper, Marketing & IT Manager –

Tel: 01476 583864

Email: james.tupper@bgbinnovation.com

Web: www.bgbinnovation.com

About BGB Innovation:

The company is divided into three industry brands – BGB Engineering, BGB Marine & BGB Digilinc. Major markets include:

- Wind turbine control and power transfer
- Water and sewage treatment
- Packaging machines
- Leisure rides
- Cable reeling
- Stand-by power generation
- Fish farming (Aquaculture)

BGB prides itself on a culture of innovation aiming to improve all aspects of the business through continuous change and improvement. Over the last few years BGB has assembled a research and development team with the view to focus efforts on the optimisation of Slip ring, Marine and Digital technology.

The name 'BGB' was formed from the initials of the original partners' wives. The Company now exists as a one family, privately owned business. BGB specialise in the design from concept, manufacturing and marketing of their own range of niche market products. The company has experienced significant growth over the last few years despite having a policy of offering its customers reductions in annual pricing. Growth is attributed to the 'Anglo-Japanese Culture' of empowered engineers in teams within manufacturing cells, Just-In-Time manufacture, continuous innovation & improvement and the latest manufacturing expertise.

BGB was established in 1976 as a manufacturer of carbon brush holders and began exporting in the early 1990's - now over 90% of turnover is achieved through the exportation of goods and services. BGB has built a good reputation for its products worldwide. Predominant European markets include Scandinavia, Spain and Germany in which BGB lays claim as leader in the field. Products are being supplied to worldwide markets such as Australia, India, Canada, Chile, Korea, USA, China and Japan.

BGB & EMDA -

BGB has received a variety of support services from emda in recent years. This includes a GRD of £110,500 in March 2008 to enable it to undertake an 18 month R&D project to solve the problem of two-way digital communications in the rotating shafts used in wind turbines, where control and monitoring is needed.

In January 2009, a GBI of just over £113,000 was awarded towards the cost of building a new factory extension, including a new clean room to accommodate fibre optic assembly and to purchase new plant and equipment. The project will create or safeguard 20 highly skilled jobs over the period. Both the GRD and GBI grants are part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

In addition, BGB was supported by emda's High Growth programme in 2006/07, when the company's MD worked with a dedicated Growth Coach to help the business unlock its growth potential.

About emda

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is one of nine Regional Development Agencies in England, set up in 1999 to bring a regional focus to economic development.

Ten years on, independent evaluation shows *emda* has:

- Had a significant impact on the region's economy
- Generated economic benefits that substantially outweigh its overall costs
- Put back over £9 of economic output (or GVA) into the regional economy for every £1 it spends
- Produced more than £1 billion in economic benefits per year
- A wider impact on people, places and businesses in the East Midlands that cannot be captured by figures alone.

emda is committed to supporting the region through the current downturn and has put in place a range of measures to provide real help during these challenging times.

Over the long term, *emda*'s aim is to deliver the 2006 Regional Economic Strategy (RES) by working in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations. The RES highlights the themes of productivity, sustainability and equality and sets out key priorities until 2020 to ensure the vision for 'a flourishing region' can be achieved.

For more details visit www.emda.org.uk

About the Grant for Research and Development

The Grant for Research and Development (GRD) helps businesses carry out research and development work that will lead to technologically innovative products or processes. GRD is a Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) business support product managed by the Regional Development Agencies and part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The grants are made at the discretion of government and therefore not all applicants will be offered a grant. Project proposals are assessed against selection criteria which include:

- Technological innovation
- Level of technical risks
- Commercial prospects
- Need for the grant and business impact
- Experience, skills and track record of the applicant and business.

In addition, projects must be able to complement the Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The RES maps out the plans for achieving sustainable economic growth in the region and it is important that investment in projects contribute towards this. Whilst we give consideration to applications covering a wide range of technologies please be aware that we particularly welcome those from applicants whose activities are closely aligned to the priority sectors identified in the RES. These are healthcare, food and drink, sustainable construction and transport technologies.

Information about the Grant for Research and Development can be found at www.emda.org.uk/grd

About GBI

GBI is the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) capital investment grant scheme aimed at encouraging businesses to invest in land and buildings, plant and machinery to support expansion and modernisation in England's more deprived areas.

The scheme is delivered in the East Midlands region by *emda*. In May 2009, *emda* announced that it was providing an additional £9.5 million to the GBI scheme, with the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) contributing a further £1.4 million. The funding will be made available to support businesses up until 2014.

The GBI is available to businesses from all parts of the region, however, the ERDF money has a particular focus on supporting projects from the Priority Axis 2 (PA2) areas of the East Midlands. These include the cities of Nottingham, Derby, Leicester and Lincoln, the towns of Corby, Chesterfield, Mansfield, and Boston and the districts of Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Bolsover and East Lindsey. Projects that could, in future, potentially be supported by the ERDF funding, include business projects creating jobs rather than investing in assets alone.

The extended GBI scheme will see more of the region's small businesses - particularly in manufacturing sectors - benefiting from funding. Visit www.emda.org.uk/gbi to find out more.

About ERDF in the East Midlands

The East Midlands is eligible for €268.5m (approximately £246m at current exchange rates) between 2007 and 2013, which when combined with match funding, provides a programme value of approximately £492m – a significant investment in the economic development of the region.

The East Midlands qualifies as a competitiveness and employment region under the EU's Cohesion Policy, which aims to meet the EU Lisbon objective to become 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social inclusion.'

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is responsible for the programme management and delivery of the region's 2007-13 ERDF Competitiveness Programme. The responsibility for ERDF programme management was transferred from the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) to *emda* following a decision by the UK Government to seek greater alignment between ERDF and regional strategies and funding streams. The 2007-13 ERDF Programme is therefore set firmly within the framework of the Regional Economic Strategy.

A Programme Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Regional Director of Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM), guides the strategic direction of the programme and works closely with *emda*.

To find out more about ERDF, the region's strategy for delivering the funds, how to apply for funding and how the programme is managed, please visit www.eastmidlandserdf.org.uk

About The Queen's Awards:

1. The Queen's Awards for Enterprise are the UK's most prestigious Awards for business success. There are four categories of Queen's Awards – three for business success (International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development) and one for individual achievement in encouraging enterprise and entrepreneurship in the UK. Companies apply for the Business Awards, but individuals must be nominated for The QAEP.
2. In April 2009, 194 business Awards were bestowed in the business categories of The Queen's Awards for Enterprise 2009. 135 companies won Awards for International Trade, 49 for Innovation and 10 for Sustainable Development. In addition, 11 individuals received The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion (QAEP)
3. The Queen's Awards were originally established in 1966, when they were known as The Queen's Awards to Industry. In 1976 they were replaced by two separate Awards – 'The Queen's Award for Export Achievement' and 'The Queen's Award for Technological Achievement'. A third Award was added in 1994 – 'The Queen's Awards for Environmental Achievement'. In 2000, the Awards were renamed The Queen's Awards for Enterprise, and the three categories changed to International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development. The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion was added in 2004.