

Press release  
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# The Small Cap Awards 2014

Celebrating success in the UK small cap community

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## Celebrating Growth at the Small Cap Awards 2014

*"Small and mid-cap companies are the engines of growth for the UK economy. We support the Small Cap Awards as a key way to recognise achievement in fostering growth and innovation."*

*Tim Ward, Chief Executive, The Quoted Companies Alliance (QCA)*

The annual Small Cap Awards - supported by the London Stock Exchange plc, the Social Stock Exchange and ISDX - will take place on Wednesday, 21 May 2014 to celebrate success in the UK small and micro-cap community.

The Awards were created in 2013 to shine a light on and reward the best companies and participants in the small and micro-cap (sub £100m market capitalisation) community.

The Awards will take place in the Grange St Paul's Hotel, 10 Godliman Street, London, EC4V 5AJ and will be attended by institutions, fund managers, brokers and advisors, creating a chance for all attendees to network with those who have shown or promoted exceptional growth and performance in the last year.

*"I think 2013 marked a turning point in the UK small/microcap market" said Gervais Williams, a member of the judging panel and supporter of Small Cap stocks as an active fund manager in the sector as Managing Director of Miton Group plc.*

*"For most of the last 20 years it has been a case of being able to invest in any stock we chose; the tricky part was finding a way to exit the investment in a sea of sellers. Over the past six months all that has changed. It is a case of being able to sell almost any of our holdings almost instantly, and the key problem has been finding decent sellers in volume in most small/microcaps. We believe this is a multi-decade change of trend coming through."*

The event will feature British entrepreneur John Bird, founder of the Big Issue, as guest speaker with Peter Dickson, the voice of X-factor, as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

The Small Cap Awards is a once-in-a-year opportunity to recognise outstanding achievement focused on the quoted UK Micro-Cap market. The event is also sponsored by Grange Hotels, Hamlins LLP, UHY Hacker Young and Square Mile Magazine.

The judging panel consists of:

(Chair) Brian Basham – Chairman of Equity Development; Daniel Bellau – Partner and Head of Corporate at Hamlins ; Richard Gill – Editorial Director at t1ps ; Andrew Hore – HubInvest and editor of AIM Journal ; Miles Nolan – Head of Publications at WH Ireland ; Claire Noyce – Managing Partner at Hybridan LLP ; Gervais Williams – Fund Manager and Director of Miton Group plc; and Colin Wright – Partner at UHY Hacker Young LLP.

This year a special award has been introduced for the Social Impact Company of the Year, awarded by a separate judging panel and which has been sponsored by the Social Stock Exchange. The purpose of this award is to raise the profile of social investment.

CEO of Social Stock Exchange, Tomas Carruthers, said today:

*"Increasingly, investors want to know more about the social and environmental impact being delivered by the businesses they back, not just the rate of return they can expect. We welcome the fact impact investing is now being recognized at events like the small cap awards, underlining precisely how this is becoming a mainstream concern for so many investors."*

The judging panel for this category comprised: Mark Campanale – co-founder of the Social Stock Exchange; Andy Edmond – CEO at Equity Development; Luke Fletcher – Partner at Bates Wells Braithwaite LLP; Jonathan Jenkins - CEO, Social Investment Business Group; and Nick Temple - Director of Business and Enterprise, Social Enterprise UK.

The judges have worked together to draw up the 2014 short list of nominees for each category, based on the 2013 calendar period. In all there are ten award categories including IPO of the Year, Transaction of the Year, Company of the Year, Social Impact Company of the Year, Advisor of the Year, Fund Manager of the Year, Executive Director of the Year, Analyst of the Year, Journalist of the Year and Small Cap Hero of the Year.

Small Cap Hero will be awarded to the person or company that has best promoted the case for Small Cap Quoted Companies.

*“The straightjacket that banks have been put into under Basel III was necessary to repair the bank balance sheets that were wrecked by their irresponsible excesses, but it has had the effect of denying finance to smaller quoted companies,”* said Brian Basham, Chairman of the Awards judging panel.

*“The stock market has become even more vital, therefore, as a source of funds for these companies that are drivers of the economy in terms of innovation and employment. Equity Development is pleased to support these awards that do so much to give recognition and encouragement to the great companies and people that make up the market.”*

The event is supported all year round by the Small Cap Club ([www.smallcapclub.com](http://www.smallcapclub.com) <<http://www.smallcapclub.com>> ) which is itself also sponsored by leading central London commercial law firm Hamlins LLP.

Over the last 24 months the Small Cap Club has successfully enabled leaders and participants in the micro-cap sector to regularly meet together, based on the premise that meeting people builds trust and creates new areas of thinking and opportunity.

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For further details on the Awards, including judging, categories, sponsor, and partnership opportunities please contact:

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#### Notes to Editors

- The second Small Cap Awards will take place from 18:30-midnight on Wednesday, 21st May 2014 at Grange St Paul’s Hotel, 10 Godliman Street, London, EC4V 5AJ
- The judging period is year ended 31 December 2013. The qualification is market capitalised below £100m: on 1 January 2013; or on market entry or refinancing during 2013
- A standard table for 10 is priced at £1,500+VAT to include a champagne reception, three course dinner and wine; individual tickets are available for £200+VAT. Platinum table (includes standard table plus sponsorship of an Award) £2,000+VAT.
- [www.smallcapawards.com](http://www.smallcapawards.com) <<http://www.smallcapawards.com>>
- Twitter: #SmallCapAwards
- The calendar of Small Cap Club events is as follows:  
21 May, Small Cap Awards, 6pm-midnight  
15th July, 6-9pm, Small Cap Club  
16th September, 6-9pm, Small Cap Club  
16th October, 6-9pm, Small Cap Club

## **Award nominees**

### **IPO of the Year – sponsored by Equity Development**

AB Dynamics; Benchmark Holdings; Bonmarche; Conviviality Retail

### **Company of the Year - sponsored by Equiniti**

1pm; Coms; Porvair; Sprue Aegis; Thorntons

### **Social Impact Company of the Year - sponsored by the Social Stock Exchange**

Ashley House; Benchmark Holdings; Good Energy Group; V22

### **Transaction of the Year – sponsored by Hamlins**

Chesnara; Conviviality Retail; Redcentric

### **Advisor of the Year**

Allenby Capital; Cenkos; Crowe Clarke Whitehill; finnCap; WH Ireland

### **Executive Director of the Year – sponsored by UHY Hacker Young**

Ken Greatham – Wynnstay Group; Jonathan Hart – Thorntons plc; Maria-Louise Hampton and Helen Walker – 1pm; Matthew Peacock - Regeneris

### **Analyst of the Year**

Eric Burns – WH Ireland; Matt Butlin – Allenby Capital; Andrew Darley – finnCap; George O'Connor – Panmure Gordon; Simon Thompson – Investors Chronicle

### **Journalist of the Year – sponsored by Love PR**

Kate Burgess – Financial Times; Geoff Foster – Daily Mail; David O'Hara – Blackthorne Focus; Andy Hore – Aim Journal; Simon Thompson – Investors Chronicle

### **Fund Manager of the Year**

Giles Hargreave – Hargreave Hale; Judith McKenzie – Downing; Katie Potts – Herald Investment Management; Gervais Williams – Miton Group

### **The headline sponsors:**

#### **Hamlins LLP**



Hamlins LLP is a 26 partner law firm based in Central London offering a wide range of commercial solutions to a client base which includes global brands, smaller enterprises and individuals. Its corporate team advises a broad spectrum of clients ranging from entrepreneurs and SMEs to AIM and main market quoted plc's. The firm focuses on core sectors of entertainment, leisure, retail and fashion, real estate, digital media and IT. Hamlins advises on all aspects of public and private M&A, fundraisings, flotations and secondary offerings, reverse takeovers and other transactions on the UK's quoted markets.

The firm's advice also extends to private equity transactions, growth and development capital investments as well as debt and mezzanine finance and restructurings. Hamlins' corporate partners are extremely well connected amongst the mid-market and lower mid-market investment community.

**UHY Hacker Young**



The UHY Hacker Young Group is one of the UK's Top 20 accountancy networks with 99 partners and 490 professional staff working from 23 locations around the country and one of the most active mid-tier UK firms within the small cap market. The offices within the Group provide a wide range of accounting, tax and business advisory services, with a reputation for integrity and reliability within the financial community, and particularly with London's Stock Markets. UHY Hacker Young are ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the ARL Corporate Adviser Rankings Guide amongst other UK audit firms for advising London Stock Exchange listed companies.

UHY Hacker Young has a specialist team of small cap advisers who are geared to providing audit, tax, financial reporting and corporate finance services to this market. They undertake numerous annual research studies within the market place which allow them to identify trends and advise clients accordingly, providing insightful thought leadership pieces.

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