The European Business Awards for the Environment (EBAE) are an initiative that identifies and rewards European companies that set an example by bringing together innovation, economic viability and environmental concern. The competition is open to all companies, irrespective of their size or country of origin. The four award categories cover management practices, products, processes and international co-operation activities that contribute to economic and social development without harming the environment.

Established by the European Commission’s Directorate-General for the Environment in 1987, EBAE activities take place at both national and European levels. To be eligible, companies must succeed in national award schemes, which are organised annually, before they can participate in the European-level competition which is held every two years. EBAE winners – chosen by an independent panel of experts – are therefore the best of the best: the most far-sighted, responsible and innovative companies in Europe.

Participation is open to companies from EU Member States and candidate countries. Submission of entries to the EU-level awards competition is managed by national coordinating bodies. Support also comes from a network of EBAE promoters – major European companies and umbrella organisations that work with the European Commission to raise awareness of the awards.

Website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/awards

Royal approval for environmentally friendly insecticide

Basque company DTS OABE won the EBAE product award in 2006 for Nupilac Hidro – an environmentally friendly insecticide for use in urban pest control. The water-based lacquer is safe for both users and individuals coming into contact after application. It requires five times less insecticide than conventional products, is free of organic solvents and has long-lasting action. It is aimed particularly at low toxicity environments such as schools, hospitals and catering establishments.

As a result of its EBAE award, the company entered the world technological elite as it was chosen as a New Corporate member by the World Technology Network at its San Francisco (USA) summit in November 2006. And in May 2007, HRH Felipe, Prince of Asturias, and HRH Leticia, Princess of Asturias, granted DTS OABE a private audience to recognise the work of DTS OABE on behalf of the environment. This event gained national and international media coverage.

Website: http://www.dts-oabe.com

Stavros Dimas
European Commissioner for the Environment
**Country Focus**

**Rewarding environmental investment – Bulgaria**

The annual Responsible Business Awards organised by the Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum reward companies with a remarkable record in the field of corporate social responsibility and encourage other business leaders to start or further develop socially beneficial activities. After five years, this national competition has become an established celebration of ethical business behaviour, attracting prominent representatives from business, public authorities and the media.

As the only contest of its kind in Bulgaria, these awards continue to multiply their supporters each year. This can be seen by the constantly rising number of projects nominated, competing in five categories. One of the most popular categories is ‘Investor in Environment’. This recognises companies pioneering environmentally friendly policies and products, and stimulating others to follow suit.

Website: [http://www.bblf.bg](http://www.bblf.bg)

---

**High standard in national competition – Finland**

The 2007 Responsible Business Awards presented by the Finnish national jury, which included academics, industrialists and scientists. The first prize winners in each category were:

- **Product:** Neste Oil Oyj, NExBTL® – Diesel fuel made from renewable raw materials
- **Process:** Outotec Oyj – Innovative ferrochrome production technology
- **International co-operation:** Clean Globe International Oyj – New, efficient systems for oil-spill prevention and response

For the future, the company intends to innovate in:

1. Waste reduction, particularly plastics and organics;
2. Eco-design relating food safety requirements to environmental services for the food services industry – has increased visibility markedly and helped form a worldwide alliance for sustainable food systems. Keys to its success include its km/meal environmental indicator and its innovative ‘The Sustainable Meal’ format for catering services.

For the future, the company intends to innovate in:

- **Process:** Outotec Oyj – Innovative ferrochrome production technology
- **International co-operation:** Clean Globe International Oyj – New, efficient systems for oil-spill prevention and response

Website: [http://www.chemind.fi](http://www.chemind.fi)

---

**Improving standards at country level – Slovenia**

Slovenia has a long tradition with environmental business awards, starting in 1995. Since 2005, the national programme has been consistent with the EBAE. The jury consists of environmental specialists, journalists and others. From the beginning, the jury president has been prof. dr. Peter Novak. The current event organisers are business daily Finance in co-operation with the Environmental Fund (Ekosklad) and the Environmental Agency of the Republic of Slovenia.

The 2007 jury had to choose between 18 nominees. Gorenje and Petrol energetika won the Best Management Award; the Best Product Award went to Elan; and the Best Process Award went to IUV. All are dedicated to sustainability, growth and environmentally friendly development. Three of them – Gorenje, Elan and IUV – have applied for the EBAE European competition.

Website: [http://wwwfinance.si](http://wwwfinance.si)
Ensuring only the best for Europe – the UK

The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) is responsible for selecting winners from the UK accredited environmental award schemes for the EBAE competition. A panel of experts ensures only the best are put forward. Companies selected represent the top examples of UK excellence in terms of commitment to innovation and high levels of environmental performance.

The UK procedure is particular robust as there are a range of accredited awards from which EBAE entrants can be picked. The UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the RSA have worked together for many years to promote the business benefits of environmental and sustainability awards and have developed a database of UK awards as well as guidance on accreditation.

“Our accreditation scheme offers peace of mind and the opportunity for winners to conquer European markets via exposure through the EBAE,” says Simon Fordham at the RSA.

Websites: http://www.rsaaccreditation.org/ or http://www.environmentawards.net/

125 entries for 2008 awards

The EBAE Secretariat in Brussels has received 125 entries for the 2008 Awards from outstanding companies across Europe. The EBAE jury, consisting of 18 high level experts for the EU Member States, will meet from 10 to 12 March in Ljubljana, Slovenia – current holder of the EU Presidency.

The Jury will be divided into three groups to assess entries in Management, Product and Process categories. Members of all three groups will assess entries in the International Co-operation category. The numbers per categories are the following: Management – 38; Product – 35; Process – 42; and International Cooperation – 10.

Members will select the 12 best companies – three per category – to be announced as nominees for the 2008 EBAE immediately after the jury meeting. The Awards will be given to four companies (one per category) among these 12 best companies.

Award ceremony marks start to Green Week

The EBAE 2008 Award Ceremony will be held in Brussels at the beginning of Green Week 2008. Green Week will be taking a closer look at the sustainable use of natural resources, focusing on sustainable consumption and production, and waste management. It will take place in the Charlemagne building of the European Commission (170 rue de la Loi, 1049 Brussels) from Tuesday 3 to Friday 6 June.

For more information about Green Week 2008: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/greenweek/home.html

HOW TO CONTACT US

EBAE website: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/awards
Alternatively you may contact your national organiser directly: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/awards/procedure_coordinators_en.htm

EBAE SECRETARIAT
Nicolas Baygert, c/o PRACSIS
tel: +32 2 340 30 65; fax: +32 2 345 17 84; e-mail: eu.awards.env@pracsis.be

EUROPEAN COMMISSION, ENVIRONMENT DG
Katarzyna Wolos,
tel: +32 2 299 79 81; fax: +32 2 296 95 60; e-mail: katarzyna.wolos@ec.europa.eu