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The Re:Locate Awards 2009

Innovative Suppliers Rise to the Challenge

London, May

The annual *Re:locate* Awards, which honour companies and individuals involved in relocation, have been presented at a champagne reception and gala dinner held at the Institute of Directors, in London. Guests from across the relocation spectrum celebrated success, good practice and innovation in this increasingly high-profile field.

Launched in 2007 by *Re:locate*, the magazine for HR professionals and relocation specialists, this is the only awards scheme in the UK to celebrate achievement in this field.

With business becoming ever more global, relocation and mobility are hot topics for many organisations. Speaking at the gala dinner, *Re:locate*'s managing editor, Fiona Murchie, said, "In the current climate, it is even more important to promote best practice and nurture talent. Domestic movers are having to make hard decisions, and need help with property and financial issues. HR and management teams need sound advice and new ideas. Globalisation won't stop, and there will be more new companies looking to overseas markets for opportunities – with all the complexities that involves. And we in this room have the HR and specialist industry knowledge to support them."

Between them, the seven *Re:locate* Awards recognised individuals, teams, policy and innovation, with a choice of categories for HR and service providers. On the judging panel were distinguished figures from business, academia and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD).

The shortlist reflected the many different types of organisation and individual involved in relocation, from HR people to specialist support providers of various kinds, including relocation management companies, consultants, removals experts, software developers, serviced accommodation providers and education specialists, all of whom contribute a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the relocation process.



*Stephen Fairn of Pricoa
Relocation receives the award for
Relocation service Provider of the
Year*

The winners represented organisations large and small. Pricoa Relocation won the Relocation Service Provider or



*Sharon Hewitt of Chiltern
Relocation receives her award
for Rising Star in Relocation*

Team of the Year category, the judges praising it for providing a good all-round relocation service, with solid relocation and mobility credentials and an innovative approach. They were also impressed by the company's accreditation under the Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For scheme. The Specialist Supplier award went to Pet Relocation.com. The judges praised the company for excellent use of its website, blog and Facebook, its training seminars, and its clear focus on this very specialist area.

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Clare Ace of SACO accepting their award

It was not only larger organisations that tasted success. In the Rising Star in Relocation category, for example, two smaller companies were shortlisted. The winner was Sharon Hewitt, of Chiltern Relocation, who set up an innovative relocation network, partnering with other small companies throughout the country. The judges described Sharon as someone who had an idea and made it work, and praised her as “a great enabler” and “an inspirational leader” who showed the professionalism one would expect from a larger company, but with the all-important personal touch.

Property is a perennially hot topic in relocation, and particularly so in today’s economic climate. The award for Best Property Provider or Solution went to serviced accommodation provider SACO Apartments for the second year running. The judges considered SACO a clear winner, based on the quality of its submission and its innovative approach. They were particularly impressed by its corporate social responsibility policy, its environmental policy, and its accreditation under the Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work For scheme.



Martin Humphrys receives his award for Relocation Personality of the Year

The Relocation Personality of the Year award caught the imagination of the industry and was hotly contested. The winner was education consultant Martin Humphrys, a well-known figure in the relocation world. Martin helped to create an education department for Corporate Relocation in 1997, and started his own consultancy, Humphrys’ Education, in 2002. He has served on the ARP’s Council, addressed conferences in the UK and abroad, and is one of the first ports of call for journalists seeking comment on current developments in education. His win reflected the central role education plays in relocation, his commitment to his clients, and his long and distinguished career.

The *Re:locate* Awards 2008/9 were sponsored by Clark & Rose, Connells Relocation Services, Fully Furnished, MoveAssist International and Roomservice by CORT. BridgeStreet Worldwide and ORC Worldwide were supporters, and the Association of Relocation Professionals (ARP), EuRA, Focus and the Relocation User Group (RUG) provided professional endorsements.

The Summer issue of *Re:locate*, to be published in June, will feature full details of the winners, with case studies.

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