

***aquilaheywood* wins Business of the Year award**

**Redhill – 10 August 2006**

Following on from a number of recent awards, *aquilaheywood*, the leading supplier of pensions administration software solutions, has been awarded the Business of the Year Award for the South East Region, sponsored by CMS Cameron McKenna. This award is a category in the National Business Awards South East Regional Programme 2006, sponsored by Orange. The key judging criteria for the Business of the Year category were exceptional financial returns, strong growth and innovation strategies, and market leadership. *aquilaheywood* will now go forward to compete in the National final of the award.

This success is in addition to winning a number of other recent national and industry awards. The Group won the Systems Provider of the Year at the Professional Pensions UK Pensions Awards 2006, and it also won National Growth Business of the Year in the recent Business XL Awards, a title which recognises the Group's impressive organic growth.

Commenting on *aquilaheywood's* achievement at the National Business Awards, David Ackroyd, Chief Executive, said:

"We are delighted to receive the Business of the Year Award for the South East region, which recognises the outstanding performance of *aquilaheywood*. The Group has won a number of awards in the past year, and this win is further recognition of the dedication and quality of our employees who have been the driver behind our continuing consistent growth and innovation. We look forward to building on the success we've achieved in recent years and are confident in our ability to maintain our market-leading position and set the standards for our industry."

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**About *aquilaheywood***

*aquilaheywood*, the Group comprising *aquila* and *heywood*, is the leading supplier of pensions administration software solutions in the UK. The pension schemes for nearly 7 million members in more than 200 major organisations are run using the Group's three administration software solutions, *administrator*, *AXISe* and *altair*. These solutions cover the

whole range of available schemes including DB, DC, hybrid, career average, cash balance and stakeholder, as well as group and individual products such as SIPPs, income drawdown and flexible retirement.

The Group provides solutions to the Financial Services, Third Party Administration, Corporate and Public Sector pension scheme markets in the UK, Ireland and the rest of Europe. Its clients include Prudential, Norwich Union, BBC, Asda, BP, Diageo, the European Central Bank, Aon Consulting, JLT and most local authority schemes.

*administrator* is *aquila's* functionally rich, pension administration software solution, which addresses the core administration, investment and communication requirements of all significant pension benefit and plan types. Its modern architecture offers a cost effective and low risk solution with proven capability and quality of delivery. *administrator's* Out Of The Box and Web Enabler components enable rapid deployment of transactional web access to individual members through a self-service model.

*altair* is *heywood's* next generation pensions software solution, which is fully browser-based with advanced web capabilities and takes full advantage of modern technology.

For those clients who wish to out-source their pensions IT function, all our solutions can be offered via a fully hosted or ASP service. To ensure a low risk implementation, the Group provides experienced consultancy services for business management comprising project management, process engineering, data migration, management information and system integration.

#### **About The National Business Awards**

The aim of The National Business Awards is to reward and recognise excellence, best practice and innovation throughout the UK business community. Judges will be looking for evidence of three key guiding principles in all categories: commercial success, innovation in performance improvement, and ethics in respect of legislation, regulation, the environment and the rights of all stakeholders.

Supported by organisations ranging from the Institute of Directors to The Chartered Institute of Marketing, The National Business Awards is becoming the most visible and sought-after endorsement of corporate and individual achievement in the UK.

The National Business Awards attract intense interest reflecting the fact that the programme is the first of its kind to cater for all business sector categories and organisations of all sizes, from the achievements of new ventures to FTSE100s.

For further information about The National Business Awards contact Head of Public Relations, Robert Janes, telephone 020 7234 8725, email [robert.janes@questmedia.com](mailto:robert.janes@questmedia.com). For further information visit: [www.nationalbusinessawards.com](http://www.nationalbusinessawards.com)