

## North Devon Manufacturers Awards 2008

Manufacturers from all over North Devon attended a glitzy ceremony in Barnstaple earlier this month, all in the hope of winning a much-coveted North Devon Manufacturers Association (NDMA) award.

Barnstaple based pharmaceutical manufacturer, Actavis, and Ilfracombe electronics company, Lambda, were the big winners of the night with Bideford's Tyco Electronics and Okehampton's Victoria Sawmills also taking home silverware.

Whilst Lambda managed to scoop the best Apprentice, Trainee and Transformation of the Year awards, it was Actavis who took home Best Team of the Year as well as the all-important Manufacturer of the Year award.

Sara Vincent, Managing Director at Actavis, said: "We are delighted to be honoured with the titles of both Manufacturer of the Year and Best Team of the Year at the 2008 NDMA awards.

"Last year's re-branding was a tremendous success and the award for Team of the Year goes some way towards recognising the efforts of all who were involved.

"The speed with which the re-branded packaging was rolled out demonstrates our agility, responsiveness to customer needs and commitment to enhancing patient safety.

"We're all very happy to be recognised for our efforts."

Jimmy Jewell, chairman of the NDMA, said: "The awards dinner proved once and for all that North Devon has a flourishing manufacturing sector.

"To see so many people in one room acknowledging one another's successes was truly humbling and a reminder of the excellent skills and leaders we have in the county, not to mention the diversity of the sector."

There were a total of 47 entries to the six categories and 140 people attended the awards dinner, enjoying inspirational speeches from TV star and creator of the Black Farmer range, Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, and designer of the Bedlam Cube, Danny Bamping, who appeared on BBC 2 hit show, Dragon's Den.

The awards were sponsored by a cross-section of bodies with close links to the sector including the South West Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), the Government-backed body established to help manufacturers improve their productivity.

Linda Middleton-Jones of the MAS said: "Both Wilfred and Danny shared with a captivated audience how they have overcome adversity and cynicism to get to their current level of success.

"The message rang out loud and clear that to succeed in business you need to persevere and never give up, something that many of the manufacturers present could identify with."

The event also raised £1,000 for North Devon Cancer Care Trust and Devon Air Ambulance through a raffle.

For more information about the North Devon Manufacturers Association, visit [www.ndma.org.uk](http://www.ndma.org.uk)

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