



## All-Party Parliamentary Corporate Responsibility Group

*To promote debate and understanding of corporate responsibility  
in the community, environment, marketplace and workplace.*

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### Parliamentarians' National Responsible Business Champion short-list announced

The All-Party Parliamentary Corporate Responsibility Group (APCRG) announced the companies short-listed for its National Responsible Business Champion award on 20 March 2015. The shortlisted companies were selected by MPs and Peers on a Parliamentary judging panel: Jonathan Djanogly MP, Baroness Greengross, Baroness Howe of Idlicote and Nick Hurd MP.

The APCRG National Responsible Business Champion award 2015 will be presented to the winning company at a reception in Parliament to be held after the general election.

The Co-Chairs of the APCRG, Baroness (Sally) Greengross and Jonathan Djanogly MP, said the Parliamentarians considering the Constituency Responsible Business Champions nominated by MPs had had a difficult job in selecting 10 companies for the short-list. All the companies nominated by their constituency MPs were clearly doing excellent work and had strong support from their MPs.

One company, Frankham Consultancy Group, was nominated as their Responsible Business Champion by 2 MPs from neighbouring constituencies, Bob Neill MP (Bromley & Chislehurst) and James Brokenshire MP (Old Bexley & Sidcup). Fujitsu UK was nominated by 3 MPs, Helen Jones (Warrington North), Maria Miller (Basingtoke) and David Wright (Telford). The nominations also included two ports: Port of Blyth and Port of Tyne.

The APCRG Responsible Business Champions initiative is being supported by National Grid, one of the first Associate members of the APCRG and Business in the Community's Responsible Business of the Year 2014/15 (<http://www.bitc.org.uk/our-resources/case-studies/national-grid-responsible-business-award>).

### The 10 companies short-listed for the APCRG National Responsible Business Champion award are:

- Bakkavor Welcome Foods – nominated by Gloria De Piero MP (Ashfield)
- Fujitsu UK, Basingtoke – nominated by Rt Hon Maria Miller MP (Basingtoke)
- London City Airport Ltd – nominated by Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP (East Ham)
- Marks & Spencer plc, Loughborough – nominated by Rt Hon Nicky Morgan MP (Loughborough)
- Port of Tyne - nominated by Emma Lovell-Buck MP (South Shields)
- Sony UK Technology Centre – nominated by Huw Irranca-Davies MP (Ogmore)
- The Altro Group plc – nominated by Sir Oliver Heald QC MP (North East Hertfordshire)
- The Wheatsheaf Inn, No Mans Heath – nominated by Rt Hon Stephen O'Brien MP (Eddisbury)
- Urban & Civic plc – nominated by Jonathan Djanogly MP (Huntingdon)
- WrightBus Ltd – nominated by Ian Paisley MP (North Antrim)

**Bakkavor Welcome Foods** was described by Gloria De Piero as having “responsible and ethical trading at the heart of their business”.

Maria Miller told the APCRG judges that **Fujitsu in Basingtoke**, which has seconded two Business Connectors to help create mutually beneficial relationships between organisations in her constituency, made a “fantastic contribution” to the local community and through its support for the Armed Forces.

Co-Chairs: Baroness Greengross OBE & Jonathan Djanogly MP;  
Vice Chairs: Baroness Gibson of Market Rasen OBE, Baroness Howe of Idlicote CBE,  
John Robertson MP & Lord Sheppard of Didgemere KCVO.

**The Altro Group** was described by Sir Oliver Heald as having “taken corporate responsibility to a high level in terms of environmental commitment and ethical commitment in their supply chain, consistently ahead of the curve.”

**The Wheatsheaf Inn**, nominated by Stephen O’Brien, had impressed the APCRG judges by its commitment to its local community, not least by launching a full-scale “Meals-on-Wheels” service for the elderly population of Malpas.

In addition to having very strong links with various education institutions, the **Sony UK Technology Centre** has worked with Ospreys Rugby Club and Cardiff City Football Club to support multi-media Family Learning Zones. It has also reduced its carbon footprint by 62% since 2006.

**The Port of Tyne**, which has already won another 2015 award in recognition of its positive impact in the community, scored highly for its environmental performance, modern apprenticeships, other training and monitoring of suppliers’ standards.

**Marks & Spencer in Loughborough** was another company taking a holistic approach to its support for the local community and with the commitment of its Business Connector, Malcolm Heaven, was described by Nicky Morgan MP as “delivering a significant contribution in making Loughborough a better place to live, work and shop.”

**WrightBus Ltd**, the maker of the New Routemaster buses used in London, was described by nominating MP, Ian Paisley, as being heavily involved in the local community and playing a “major role in supporting local schools and charity based initiatives”. He commended its provision of work placements, its Apprentice Training Programme and its commitment to equal opportunities.

In what may be regarded as surprising choices, the short-list includes a developer and an airport.

**Urban & Civic plc**, nominated by Jonathan Djanogly MP, was short-listed by the other judges because of its comprehensive community liaison service, its support for small businesses and start-ups; and its commitment to high environmental standards and to supporting skills development.

**London City Airport** was nominated by the former Corporate Responsibility Minister, Stephen Timms, who described it as an “exemplar of corporate responsibility”. He cited its investment in the local community; its commitment to providing pathways into work for unemployed residents; its work with schools and universities; and its work with West Ham United Football Club to promote healthy lifestyles, among other issues.

**Baroness Greengross said:**

“We were really impressed by the quality of the nominations we received. It is heartening to learn about the great work that companies are doing across the UK, not just in terms of providing jobs and training, but in making a really positive difference to their communities and by working hard to reduce their environmental impact. We had nominations from every part of the UK – England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales – and for companies large and small, across a wide range of sectors. We are grateful to all the MPs who have taken the time, during a very busy period in the run-up to the election, to support our new award by nominating a company as their constituency Responsible Business Champion.”

**Jonathan Djanogly said:**

“It is clear from the nominations we’ve seen that relationships between MPs and local employers are strong, as you would expect, and this holds true for Cabinet level Ministers as well as backbenchers.

In selecting our National Responsible Business Champion our judging panel will be focussing on the impact in each constituency of the companies on our short-list. It is clear from what the nominating MPs have told us that many of these companies are deeply rooted in their communities and play a role in society that goes well beyond providing jobs and training. We will be looking at companies’ social and environmental impact as well as their workplace standards and relationships with suppliers.”

**Steve Holliday, CEO of National Grid plc, said:**

“National Grid is delighted to be supporting this award scheme. Successful business is the lifeblood of any healthy community – the two are inseparable. That’s why it’s incredibly important for business to understand and celebrate the role it has in its community – to ensure the long term sustainability of both. The Parliamentary judging panel have selected a very strong-short list and we look forward to seeing which of the Constituency Responsible Business Champions wins the national award.”

**APCRG Responsible Business Champions scheme**

The APCRG formally launched its Responsible Business Champions scheme on 29 January 2015, when the Group's Co-Chairs, Sally Greengross and Jonathan Djanogly, wrote to all MPs inviting nominations for their Constituency Responsible Business Champions and the scheme's sponsor, National Grid, was announced.

MPs were invited to identify an outstanding local business which deserves to be their Constituency Responsible Business Champion on the basis of its positive impact in their constituency. In selecting a national winner from among MPs' nominations, the APCRG judging panel will consider a nominated company's overall impact in its constituency, including any enduring legacy; the extent of employees' engagement in the work for which it has been nominated; support for the company's work from local partners; and the extent to which it goes beyond what the company is legally or contractually obliged to do.

The Officers were delighted to announce in January 2015 that National Grid, one of the first Associate members of the APCRG and BITC's Responsible Business 2014, has agreed to sponsor the APCRG's Responsible Business Champion scheme for its first two years.

Sally Greengross says: "The Group has had a very positive relationship with National Grid for many years. It is a fine company that has done excellent work in many areas. In the past it was recognised for its innovative work in training ex-offenders and now it is leading the way in supporting STEM education in schools and inspiring more young people to consider careers in engineering. Without National Grid's vital work in keeping our energy transmission systems operational, we literally would not have the power to keep our homes and businesses running. Its work, often unacknowledged, plays a vital part in every community across our country and we are delighted that National Grid has agreed to be the inaugural sponsor of the APCRG's Responsible Business Champions scheme."