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WIND FARM COMPANY WINS TOP BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Renewable Energy Systems, the leading international wind farm developer, has won the top award at the prestigious national Business Commitment to the Environment Awards 2004. The 'Peter Parker Award' was given to RES for its environmental commitment exemplified by its groundbreaking zero-emissions headquarters, Beaufort Court. The Award was presented by Professor Howard Dalton, Chief Scientist at DEFRA, at a ceremony in London on Tuesday. RES will now go forward to the European Environmental Awards. ¹

Beaufort Court, which is self-sufficient in energy generated from clean, green sources, is best known to Hertfordshire residents and motorists on the M25 by the landmark wind turbine just metres from the motorway, which generates more than twice the amount of electricity the site needs. The refurbished Arts & Crafts style 1930s buildings originally housed the chickens that laid the eggs for Ovaltine, manufactured nearby in Kings Langley. In what is a world-first in zero-emissions commercial development, the historic buildings have been transformed into a unique and elegant sustainable office. Beaufort Court has been hailed as a living case study for sustainability. ²

Ian Mays, Managing Director of the RES Group, said;

"We are delighted that our success in integrating renewable energy into the built environment has been recognised with this important award. We are very proud of what we and our partners have achieved. Beaufort Court is a symbol of the RES Group's overall commitment to environmental protection and social responsibility in all aspects of our wind power business worldwide. The wind turbine next to the M25 has become a symbol of sustainability and is much-loved, demonstrating that wind power is a popular technology with the British public."

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Heat, power and cooling at Beaufort Court are provided by five hectares of biomass crop, a large solar thermal and photovoltaic array, an underground seasonal heat store, a borehole cooling system and the now-famous wind turbine. The site is entirely self-sufficient in energy and sells surplus green electricity to the local grid. The hybrid PVT system is the first of its kind in the world. High standards of energy efficiency were achieved in the refurbishment design. An Educational Facility has recently opened at the HQ to meet the huge demand for visits from schools, professionals and community groups and an Open Day will take place in June.

RES beat off stiff competition from top British companies including Rolls Royce, BAE Systems and Epson, to be named overall winner for 2004. The RES Group's company-wide commitment to environmental protection in all aspects of its operations as a developer, builder and operator of wind farms around the world, has also been recognised.

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Notes to editors

1. The Business Commitment to the Environment Awards 2004 took place on Tuesday 31 May 2005 at the Lincoln Centre, London. The BCE Awards were established in 1975 to recognize businesses whose activities enhance or protect the environment. They are sponsored by leading innovation company AEA Technology Environment. From a shortlist of around 50, Highly Commended and Premier Awards were given to 13 companies. The Peter Parker Award, in memory of the founder of BCE, is given to the entry considered by the panel to be the most outstanding in any year.

2. Beaufort Court has won several awards since it was officially opened by the UK Energy Minister a year ago. The re-development of Beaufort Court using best practice sustainable strategies was achieved with EU support the EC Framework 5 Programme. The main project partners and contractors were Studio E Architects, Max Fordham LLP, Netherlands Energy Research Foundation (ECN), Shell Solar, Esbensen Consulting Engineers and Dewhurst Macfarlane. Support from the DTI has been provided for information and dissemination activities. More information can be found at : www.beaufortcourt.com

About RES: UK-based Renewable Energy Systems Group (RES) is part of the Sir Robert McAlpine group of engineering and construction companies and is one of the world's leading wind farm developers. RES has an expanding portfolio of several gigawatts of wind generating capacity at various stages of development in Europe, the US, Asia and the Caribbean. RES built its first wind farm in Cornwall in 1992 and has to date installed over 900MW of wind generating capacity. The RES Group's commitment to sustainability and good practice in all aspects of its business, including wind farm design and development, has recently been recognised with a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

Photos are available, including archive shots of Beaufort Court.

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