

# Awards honour innovation

TECHNOLOGY-LED businesses and entrepreneurs from across the region are to be recognised for their innovative achievements at a major awards ceremony.

The second Bright Sparc Awards are being run by the Sparc technology network and will honour those businesses or individuals who have truly excelled in their specialist fields.

The event will take place on May 13 at Cranfield University on the eve of Cranfield VentureDay, a one-day conference and networking event for entrepreneurs.

This year VentureDay delegates can find out why starting and growing a business in



challenging times can be a source of real opportunity for entrepreneurs and investors.

Keynote speaker Lord Bilimoria will share the Cobra success story of surviving the recession of the early 1990s to create one of Britain's iconic multi-million pound beer brands.

Chris Dunkley, director of the Milton Keynes Enterprise Hub and Sparc's network director, said: "Milton Keynes and the surrounding region is home to many technology companies all of whom are pushing the boundaries of their chosen specialism."

"The Bright Sparc Awards are a great way for innovative companies to showcase their work to an expert panel of judges and gain recognition for their achievements."

"We hope this year's event will again attract high quality entrants from across the region and match the success of the first Bright Sparc Awards."

Last year's Bright Sparc Awards attracted more than 60 entries from technology-led businesses and entrepreneurs across the region. From the winners of each of six categories Zeroshift Ltd was chosen as the recipient of the overall Bright Sparc Award 2008.

For more information, visit [www.brightsparcawards.co.uk](http://www.brightsparcawards.co.uk)



● **Chris Dunkley: Sparc network director.**

## Travel site is music to the ear

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● To claim your free one-month trial of the Amadeus system, answer the following question: When was the composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart born? **E-mail your answer to Matrix Travel Management business development manager Chris Meredith at [chrismeredith@matrixtravel.co.uk](mailto:chrismeredith@matrixtravel.co.uk)**

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All businesses will be able to access, through us; full funding for employees to achieve their first full level 2 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), as well as some level 3's.

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To find more information contact The Chamber of Commerce on 01908 259004 or email [training@mk-chamber.co.uk](mailto:training@mk-chamber.co.uk)

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**TYPESETTING** BSW Design

**PRINTING** Precision Colour Printing

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Woburn Media Ltd, 433c Midsummer House,  
Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BN

**ABC**

Business MK series distribution  
4,546 copies per month July 2007-June 2008  
Business to Business series distribution  
4,059 copies per month July 2007-June 2008