

London, 24 November 2008

## Pre-employment Screening Company Powerchex Wins Business of the Year 2008

Six hundred people attended the NatWest Thames Gateway Business Awards last Friday, 21st November at the Excel, London in a celebration of entrepreneurship designed to recognise and honour the Thames Gateway's top businesses.



Powerchex, the leader in pre-employment screening solutions for financial firms scooped the top award for the evening presented by TV chef and former star of Strictly Come Dancing James Martin. In addition to winning the Business of the Year Award, Powerchex was also highly commended in the Innovation category for its accredited graduate development programme "STARS".

Powerchex has beaten off stiff competition to win Business of the Year in the 2008 NatWest Thames Gateway Awards – the region’s premier showcase for the most promising businesses and the inspirational entrepreneurs behind them.

Alexandra Kelly, the MD of Powerchex, originally asked the BBC dragons to invest in her idea for a company specialising in staff referencing for the financial services industry. But when they said no, she decided to go it alone – and four years later Powerchex is the fastest-growing vetting and job referencing service in the UK boasting an office in the city, 40 staff, and an impressive roster of first rate financial clients.

“Being recognised as the Business of the Year in these prestigious awards is the crowning achievement in a year that can only be described as incredible” said Alexandra. “Having doubled in size and revenues in the past year, Powerchex is now ready to start a new year of success and innovation.”

John Cox, Regional Director at NatWest, said “There were a record number of entrants for the Thames Gateway Business Awards this year and we were delighted to be involved in the celebrations that pay tribute to thriving businesses in the region. Congratulations to Powerchex who were worthy winners.”

"The 11th Archant London Thames Gateway Business Awards was a huge success" added Enzo Testa, Executive Managing Director of Archant the event’s organisers. “The calibre of entries from businesses and individuals was extremely high and the evening was recognition of the drive and determination within the community to ensure that the area thrives over the coming years."

In addition to winning the Thames Gateway Business of the Year Award, Powerchex participated in the Thames Valley Business Awards, where it was awarded a high commendation in the Small Business category. The award was presented by Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, former Foreign Secretary and deputy leader of the Labour Party and was sponsored by Regus.

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About *Powerchex***

*Powerchex* is the UK’s premier pre-employment screening firm for financial institutions. Based in the City of London, *Powerchex* checks the background, employment history, criminal records and professional qualifications of applicants on behalf of financial

institutions. It sets the industry benchmark of 5 days for a background check.  
[powerchex.co.uk](http://powerchex.co.uk).

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