

## Powerchex Wins Innovation Award Second Year in a Row

*In the midst of the recession, Powerchex innovates and wins award at the Thames Gateway Business Awards*

**London, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2009.** Powerchex, the leading pre-employment screening firm for financial services, has again won recognition at the prestigious Thames Gateway Business Awards.

This year, Powerchex was praised in the Innovation Category for its new service 'Know Your Supplier' (KYS). Judges were looking for businesses that could demonstrate that they had successfully introduced a new idea, technique or practice that had improved their business, how the idea was implemented and how it had impacted upon the business.

The glittering awards ceremony took place at the Troxy on Friday evening with more than 700 people in attendance. Judges paid tribute to Powerchex, recognising the bravery and forward-thinking of an SME prepared to innovate in a recession.

"I am absolutely ecstatic that our achievement has been recognised on such a scale," stated Alexandra Kelly, Managing Director of Powerchex. "Not only have we shown that we are prepared to innovate and look at something completely new, but also have the confidence to put resources behind the project at such a difficult time for many small businesses."

This is the second year running that Powerchex has been successful in the Innovation Category of the Thames Gateway Awards. Last year, Powerchex won praise for its pioneering staff training and development programme, which lowered costs by reducing staff turnover and increasing the output per person.

"It is extremely important to invest in your workforce, even in times of economic difficulty," continues Kelly. "While it can be easy to concentrate only on the front-line of your business, keeping staff motivated and your cost-per-unit as low as possible maximises your chances of not just surviving, but actually growing your market share as markets recover."

Enzo Testa, Executive Managing Director of Archant London commented; "We are proud to do all we can to support, encourage and promote businesses within the many local areas we cover. The rich mix of successful businesses across The Thames Gateway region make our communities, places we can be proud of. To this end, we are pleased to have organised this event."

-ENDS-

## 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.

[www.powerchex.co.uk](http://www.powerchex.co.uk).