

Baggett named entrepreneur of the year

Forum members recognised four of their most admired peers with the announcement of the winners and runners-up of the EF Entrepreneur and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards at the conference gala dinner.

Mark Hatton of Ernst & Young presented commissioned sculptures by Durham artist Brian Brown to Ian Baggett, of the Adderstone Group and young entrepreneur Matthew James, of UK Biometrics.

The Awards acknowledge the people who Forum members consider to have been the most inspirational and successful in the region in the last year.

Ian's Newcastle-based company is one of the fastest growing in the North East, recording growth of 160 per cent in the last year.

Mark said of him: "He started the company with a small financial windfall and built it up into something much, much bigger. He has seemingly limitless levels of energy, determination and passion."

UK Biometrics' plan is to be turning over in excess of £100 million by 2010.

Mark said Matthew had impressed everyone who had met him. "He is someone with a great business idea and a winning combination of technical, commercial and managerial skills. His products have huge potential to touch all our lives."

The runners-up were Tony Trapp of the Engineering Business and Peter Hunt of Fresh Element.

