



Robert Watson; Winner of the 2008 PLC Entrepreneur of the Year Award

Hilton Food Group is delighted to announce that Robert Watson OBE, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, has won the Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the 2008 PLC Awards in London.

Robert has worked in the meat industry for over 30 years and was one of the founders of Hilton in 1994. The Group has grown rapidly since then and today operates from state of the art meat packing facilities in UK, Ireland, Holland, Sweden and Poland with the bulk of the turnover coming from outside the UK. Sales rose from £578m in 2007, to £730m in 2008.

Commenting, Robert said "I am very pleased to accept this award which is a full endorsement of the professionalism of HFG plc, and the commitment of all our members of staff. We founded our business when Tesco centralised its meat supply system in 1994 and have grown rapidly ever since. Our performance has been driven by our flexibility and our ability to remodel a big retailer's meat supply base to support its specific requirements."

Flexibility has also helped the business cope with industry challenges such as the foot and mouth and BSE crisis, where Robert represented the Northern Ireland meat industry in discussions with the government at the time. He received his OBE in 2000 for services to the meat industry and in 2005 was accepted into the Entrepreneur Hall of Fame in Northern Ireland.

The PLC Awards were founded in 1987 to reward excellence in the smaller quoted company sector. The winners of each of the eight award categories are presented with their awards at the annual PLC Awards Dinner, in March of each

year at an event attended by 1,500 guests from across the business world, including quoted companies, investment banks, fund managers, investment analysts, and corporate advisors.

Detail of Award Category

Entrepreneur of the year award

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The winner of this award will have demonstrated continued leadership of the business. The essential entrepreneurial spirit that enabled the group to succeed in its early days will have been retained, but a management structure that can cope with the demands of running a public company will have been introduced. Furthermore, recognising the importance of the management team and the workforce, there will have been active employee motivation.