

**25 June 2010**  
**For immediate release**

**Caption for photo: *Innovation award winners, RUMM's CEO, Jamie Watkins and Williams Medical Supplies' Zoe Barnett.***

## **Caerphilly Borough based companies celebrate the Spirit of Innovation**

Two companies based in Caerphilly Borough have been recognised for their innovative and enterprising approach to business in the Heads of the Valleys Innovation Awards, an event which showcases and celebrates business innovation in the region.

Winner of the Most Innovative Business with less than 20 employees, Caerphilly-based RUMM (Remote Utility Monitoring and Management) Ltd, is an organisation that aims to protect the environment and reduce costs by using innovative technology and a proven methodology to reduce carbon emissions, achieving large savings for local economies and reducing the impact on the environment.

Co-founder of RUMM and CEO, Jamie Watkins said: "I am really pleased to receive this award and it is a credit to the great team at RUMM. This recognition is evidence of our hard work that has proved not only to contribute greatly to the Heads of the Valleys community but to safeguard jobs and have a massive positive impact on energy saving across England and Wales."

Based on the Maerdy industrial estate, Rhymney William Medical Supplies is the leading provider of medical supplies and services to the UK healthcare market. Winner of the Most Innovative Business with more than 20 employees, the company provides equipment, pharmaceuticals and a range of services to Primary Care providers such as hospitals, GP surgeries and NHS trusts across the UK.

Zoe Barnett said: "At William Medical Supplies we value innovation and encourage our employees to strive to find new and interesting ways to help our customers. We are really pleased to win this award, which recognises our hard work and unique approach with our new innovation.

"The Medical Services Division has provided customers with a one-stop-shop service and solutions, saving medical practices time and money. It has also had a positive

impact on the area, bringing in new business and creating new jobs locally and across the UK.

“Since this new innovation, William Medical Supplies has serviced 2,900 surgeries across the UK and tested over 400 000 pieces of medical equipment, with 85 per cent of practices serviced re-booked for the following year on William Medical Services’ first day of visit.”

Organised by the Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme (HOVIP) this year’s ceremony and related business exhibition was held at Bryn Meadows Golf, Hotel & Spa where over 200 guests attended.

The Heads of the Valleys Innovation Awards acknowledge the very best in business innovation and enterprise, and highlight the true commercial and business talent the region has to offer.

The Awards are open to any businesses, including social enterprises, within the Heads of the Valleys region and any business in the boroughs of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, RCT, Merthyr Tydfil and Torfaen that can demonstrate a significant impact on or a link to the Heads of the Valleys area as well as beyond.

HOVIP is mainly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and is a practical and creative programme of support delivered by business people for business people.

Phil Burkhard, programme manager for HOVIP, said: “Now in its fourth year, the Awards honour the most innovative businesses in the region who can demonstrate how creativity and innovation has made an impact on their business, workforce, customers, communities or the environment.”

“This has been the most successful yet with a record 57 entrants. We have once again seen evidence that businesses are truly embracing innovation in the Heads of the Valleys region and using it to make their companies a real success. All the Award entrants have automatically become members of the Turning Heads Club (HOVIP’s regional business network) whose members are a collective beacon for the region.”

The 2010 event was sponsored by the University of Wales Global Academy and the Award sponsors are BT, HSBC, Capital Law, South Wales Chamber of Commerce and FS4B.

Richard Turner, of the University of Wales Global Academy said: “The level of creativity and innovation demonstrated in our winning businesses increases each year I have judged these awards. This highlights that the Heads of the Valleys region is becoming more innovative and more competitive through no small part the work the HOVIP and other initiatives such as the Prince of Wales Innovation Scholarships.”

**END**

**Note to editors:**

The Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme (HOVIP) is now in its third phase. HOVIP2, in the last 2 years, has helped 175 businesses achieve over £1 million, mainly in additional business, and is contributing to safeguarding 539 jobs ([www.hovip.org.uk](http://www.hovip.org.uk)).

HOVIP2 is part funded by WAG HoV and is hosted by Merthyr Tydfil CBC on behalf of the boroughs of Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf & Torfaen.

The two key aims of HOVIP are to:

- 1) Increase the innovative capacity of all businesses (inc. social enterprises) in the five HoV boroughs i.e. to help them survive and thrive.
- 2) Raise the business profile of the region.

HOVIP has just won the **UK Enterprise Support Initiative of the Year**, following a record 150 UK-wide entries, in the awards run by the UK Sector Skills Council for Enterprise

The inaugural HoV Innovation Awards, the flagship event of HOVIP, were first delivered in 2007.

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