



PRESS RELEASE

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HOMES FOR SCOTLAND PROMOTES INNOVATION IN HOME BUILDING WITH AWARD SCHEME LAUNCHED TODAY

Homes for Scotland, the representative body for the country's residential development industry, launched its Innovation Awards 2007 today, Thursday 23rd November 2006. Now in its fifth year the Quality Awards for Scotland show-case best practice in Scottish home building.

Executive Director Bruce Black said: "This year's theme of innovation is a wonderful opportunity for housebuilders to demonstrate examples of new thinking and practice that goes beyond what is expected or traditional. There is a great deal of creative and innovative practice in Scotland, whether this relates to a company's approach to the environment and sustainability, its use of innovative materials, or its customer-focussed culture. These awards are a way of celebrating best practice and pushing the boundaries of quality and innovation still further."

The Homes for Scotland Awards for Innovation 2007 will comprise the six following categories: Environment and Sustainability; Customer Satisfaction; Affordable Housing; Community Involvement; Construction Materials and Techniques; Health & Safety.

Entries will be evaluated by an independent panel of judges representing a variety of interests in relation to home building. The deadline for entries is 31st January. Winners will be announced on 11th May 2007 at the association's Annual Lunch, which will be attended by 650 members of the Scottish homebuilding industry.

Ends



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Notes to the Editor:

1. Homes for Scotland represents the country's home building industry which:
 - is the largest source of private investment in Scotland
 - contributes £5bn to the economy annually
 - builds 25,000 new homes per annum
 - employs more than 110,000 people
 - is the largest user of the planning system in Scotland

2. The judging panel for this year's awards is chaired by Keith GeDdes (Deputy Chairman, Scottish Natural Heritage and Chair of Greenspace Scotland) and also includes Michaela Sullivan (Head of Planning, Forth Ports plc), Jonathan Fair (Director, BRE Scotland), Malcolm MacLeod (Director for Scotland, NHBC) and Douglas Cochrane (National New Build Manager, HBOS plc).