

Wood & Douglas wins royal approval

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Alan Wood, managing director of Wood & Douglas, Dame Mary Fagan, the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, and Rear Admiral John Lang

A MANUFACTURER that increased its exports by 20 per cent has received a royal seal of approval with the presentation of a Queen's Award for Enterprise.

The award for International Trade was presented to the high-quality wireless products designer and maker Wood & Douglas by the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire Dame Mary Fagan at the company's Youngs Industrial Estate facility, in Aldermaston.

Prior to the formalities, Dame Mary was given a tour of the company's head office and R&D facility, in Baughurst, where she met the company's directors.

At the ceremony, Rear Admiral John Lang, who is a deputy lieutenant of Hampshire, read out a citation which said the award recognises the significant and sustained growth that Wood & Douglas has achieved in international trade.

The company, which employs more than 65 people, grew its exports by around 20 per cent in its last financial year, and overseas trade accounts for more than 50 per cent of Wood & Douglas' revenues.

Clearly impressed with what she saw, Dame Mary learned that the company started from humble beginnings in 1977 as a provider of wireless components to the hobbyist market.

Now its products are trusted to deliver in some of the most challenging environments and by the most exacting customers, including those where failure would threaten life.

It serves diverse markets including health care, transportation, homeland security, emergency services, utilities and exploration.

Exporting to more than 30 countries, the company has developed business with Europe, the USA, Asia and Africa, delivering reliable and effective solutions in wireless voice, data and video.

Noting that it is difficult to receive a Queen's Award, and that the firm was one of only four in Hampshire to receive the honour in the latest round of awards, Dame Mary said: "Something very special has been achieved by your company. It is a tremendous achievement."

Dame Mary said that it was out-standing that the company exported 50 per cent of its products, adding: "The country can only survive on its exports."

Commenting on her visit, Dame Mary said: "I was very conscious particularly of your pride in the company. You have every right to have such pride and I congratulate you and your workforce. I think everyone's attitude is absolutely marvellous."

The company's founder and managing director Alan Wood said: "This award recognises the team, past and present, that has demonstrated dedication, persistence and creativity to deliver wireless products and services globally. We are proud of our heritage as a British engineering company.

"We were quite staggered by the reaction of our clients, particularly overseas clients, when they saw the logo on our email signature. The feedback was astonishing – they know of the existence and value of the award and its significance. Our distributor in the United States was just gushing about it."

Praising his colleagues, he said internally, people are walking with their shoulders high because of the prestigious recognition.