



# Record support for annual business showcase event

The 2015 Anglia Business Exhibition has been hailed as the biggest and best yet.

Businesses from across Suffolk and beyond showcased their products and services at the event, which now ranks as one of East Anglia's largest annual trade fairs.

It is staged by the Ipswich & Suffolk Small Business Association (ISSBA), with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce again supporting the event this year as principal strategic partner.

This year's exhibition, which took place on May 6, the day before the General Election, was again held at Trinity Park, Ipswich, but transferred from the main events hall to the giant marquee which will be used for ringside hospitality at the Suffolk Show later this month.

It attracted a record total of around 200 exhibitors, with a further 30 firms taking stands at a new Property, Home & Investment Show held for the first time this year in parallel with the main event, in the events hall previously used for the exhibition itself.

James Davey, chairman of ISSBA, said: "We are absolutely delighted with the success of this year's event.

"I would like to thank all our partners, sponsors, exhibitors and everybody who has contributed to making ABE15 the great business to business exhibition that it is today.

"Without their continued support this event would not be possible. There was some fantastic trade stands and I am sure all those who attended took away with them some

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Harry Drnec

added business knowledge and some new contacts."

He added: "The enthusiasm and commitment shown by local businesses is proof that East Anglia is a great place to do business and needs a showcase event such as ABE to champion this."

The exhibition was officially opened by Suffolk resident Harry Drnec, a former chief executive of Red Bull UK, who was also keynote speaker at a breakfast event held on the morning of the show.

Chicago-born Mr Drnec, who now lives near Bury St Edmunds, has been involved in the drinks industry for around 40 years, having previously served as a captain with the US Air Force during the Vietnam War.



■ Harry Drnec, former chief executive of Red Bull UK, at the 2015 Anglia Business Exhibition.



■ Peter Lee, centre, receives the Best Stand award on behalf of Ipswich Borough Council from Sarah Howard of Suffolk Chamber and James Davey of ISSBA.

During his time at Red Bull he was instrumental in the UK business becoming the firm's largest division, with annual sales growing from 3million to around 300m.

Opening the exhibition, Mr Drnec said that, having lived in Suffolk for 11 years, he was delighted to see the local business community coming together to stage such an event.

The prize for Best Stand at the exhibition went to Ipswich Borough Council, with VIP Balloons as runner-up.

Sarah Howard, president of the Suffolk Chamber, said: "Suffolk Chamber of Commerce was pleased to once again be the strategic partner with ISSBA for the Anglia Business Exhibition.

"Everyone involved with this exhibition, including the steering group members, sponsors, event organisers, exhibitors and visitors, have all



helped to make this one of the key events on the business calendar in our region.

"A wide range of businesses, from small start-ups right through to the larger local businesses, had the opportunity to showcase what they do, meet new clients and forge long-lasting business relationships."

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■ For further picture covering of the 2015 Anglia Business Exhibition, see pages six and seven of today's BusinessEast.

■ Above, Samuel Stamp-Dod, left, receives the runner-up certificate in the Best Stand award from James Davey of ISSBA.

Photos: KEITH MINDHAM



■ Sarah Howard, president of Suffolk Chamber, and James Davey, chairman of ISSBA, at the opening of the 2015 Anglia Business Exhibition.

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