

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHO ARE THE GREENEST BUSINESSES IN BRITAIN?

HAIN CELESTIAL UK RANKED 10TH IN BRITAIN AND 1ST IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY

Luton, England, 22 May 2009 The 60 Best Green Companies in Britain will be revealed in the second **Sunday Times Green List** published with The Sunday Times this Sunday, May 24.

Hain Celestial UK, producer of natural and organic food products including the Linda McCartney range, has developed quite a taste for being green. Luton-based Hain Celestial UK, which plans to be carbon neutral by 2012 and boasts an impressive waste recycling rate of more than 90%, has moved up 31 places into the top 10 this year thanks to an impressive menu of initiatives to limit its impact on the environment, making it officially the **UK's greenest food company**.

Hain Celestial UK prides itself on its green credentials and between 2007 and 2008 managed to reduce food waste by more than 70%, cut water consumption by nearly 30% and lowered gas usage by 10% — double its target.

Uniquely, the Best Green Companies survey takes account of the views of employees - who get to rate their organisation's green credentials - as well as assessing the environmental performance, policies and practices of businesses.

Hain Celestial ranks first for employees being aware of the environmental implications of the work they do and knowing that the way they do their job reduces the firm's impact on the environment, earning green scores of 93% and 90% respectively. In addition, more staff at Hain Celestial than at any other company on the list find that the environmental training they receive at work makes them feel differently about what they do at home (92%).

Peter McPhillips, Executive Chairman at Hain Celestial UK said, "Our environmental policies are central to the way we do business at Hain Celestial and to be the 10th greenest company in the UK, and highest placed food company, is a fantastic honour.

The fact that the study took into account not only our environmental performance, but also our employee's views on our policies, and that they rated our programme so highly is inspiring."

The Sunday Times, working with environmental consultants, Bureau Veritas and market research group, Munro Global, devised the methodology for the competition.

Richard Caseby, managing editor of The Sunday Times, said: "The 60 companies in this survey are all pioneers – enterprising, enlightened and fizzing with new ideas. All have a common sense of purpose about their corporate social responsibility.

There may be plenty of environmental awards but this is the first that has both a robust methodology to measure environmental performance and a survey of each company's staff to find out whether the green sheen is more than skin-deep."

Sarah Davidson, technical director of Bureau Veritas, said "It has been great to see the number of entrants increase in 2009, and the overall standard of entrants to be higher. The survey approach allows us to evaluate the level of employee engagement in environmental programmes, and this too has increased in 2009, despite the pressure on corporate environmental programmes as organisations economise."

Will Ullstein, director of innovation at Munro Global said: "Our survey is unique; we are the only awards programme that seeks detailed company information and the views of employees and incorporates all data into the assessment.

To get on the Green List a company must not only deliver on environmental performance but instill a culture within the business that ensures employees are doing their part as well."

Hain Celestial, which has won a number of awards for its consideration of the environment, meets its environmental targets year on year, according to staff who give it a green score of 87% on this issue, a result bettered by just two other firms. Importantly, support comes from above - bosses are committed to the environment and encourage workers to recycle (both 91%).

IF USING THIS INFORMATION PLEASE CREDIT THE SUNDAY TIMES

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The Hain Celestial Group

The Hain Celestial Group (NASDAQ: HAIN), headquartered in Melville, NY, is a leading natural and organic food and personal care products company in North America and Europe. Hain Celestial participates in almost all natural food categories with well-known brands that include Celestial Seasonings®, Terra®, Garden of Eatin'®, Health Valley®, WestSoy®, Earth's Best®, Arrowhead Mills®, MaraNatha®, SunSpire®, DeBoles®, Hain Pure Foods®, FreeBird™, Plainville Farms®, Hollywood®, Spectrum Naturals®, Spectrum Essentials®, Walnut Acres Organic®, Imagine®, Rice Dream®, Soy Dream®, Rosetto®, Ethnic Gourmet®, Yves Veggie Cuisine®, Granose®, Realeat®, Linda McCartney®, Daily Bread™, Lima®, Grains Noirs®, Natumi®, JASON®, Zia® Natural Skincare, Avalon Organics®, Alba Botanica®, Queen Helene®, Tushies® and TenderCare®. Hain Celestial has been providing "A Healthy Way of Life™" since 1993. For more information, visit www.hain-celestial.co.uk and www.hain-celestial.com.

Notes for editors

Using a methodology devised by The Sunday Times in collaboration with Bureau Veritas, the international firm of environmental consultants, and Munro Global, the leading market research company, The Best Green Companies had to score well in two separate surveys to make the top 60 firms included in The Sunday Times Green List.

The employer survey covered environmental management policies, environmental training and internal consultation, energy consumption, waste production and recycling. This accounted for 70% of the final ranking.

The employee survey ranked companies on 52 statements on the company's green practices, which staff rated on a seven-point scale from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree". The statements ranged from "my organisation always does what is best for the environment" and "my boss encourages me to think about energy saving" to "my organisation always goes for the cheapest, rather than the most environmentally friendly option" and "my workplace is too warm when the weather is cold".

Results reported for individual questions in the employee survey represent the percentage of the maximum possible score on each question and are expressed as the "green score". Employees completing the staff survey responded to each of 52 statements using the seven-point scale. Their scores were averaged and turned into percentages of the maximum score. For example, if a company gets a 67% green score on the statement "My boss encourages me to think about energy saving" this means that its overall mark is 67% of the maximum possible score that it could have had, if all of its staff had indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement. Employee responses to these statements accounted for 30% of the final ranking.

The survey is a benchmark for environmental excellence against which companies can measure their own performance year-on-year and that of other businesses operating in their commercial field or at a similar level of environmental impact.

In all, 98 companies registered for the competition.

The competition attracted businesses large and small, ranging from supermarket giant Tesco with 185,000 staff on the payroll to Wiles Greenworld, an office supplies company, with 50 staff members.

The final 60 Best Green Companies were made up of 12 big companies (with 5,000 or more employees), 23 mid-sized firms (with 250 to 4,999 employees) and 25 small enterprises (with between 50 and 249 employees). There were 16 companies with high, 27 with medium and 17 with low environmental impacts.

Bureau Veritas UK & Ireland is a service company specialising in environment, quality, health, safety and social responsibility. Operating throughout a national network of regional offices and laboratories, Bureau Veritas employs 1,700 employees and provides services through five operational divisions: Oil & Gas; Inspection & Verification; Health, Safety & Environmental; Building & Infrastructure and Certification.

Globally, Bureau Veritas has a network of 850 offices and 33,000 specialists in 140 countries with 2007 revenues of €2.067 billion.

Munro Global was formed in June 2006. It aims to become a recognised centre of excellence in the provision of research-focused marketing services solutions. See www.munroglobal.net