

Is your company an enterprising winner?

ENTRIES are now due for the 2005 Queen's Awards for Enterprise. The deadline for applications is 31 October 2004. The Queen's Awards are open to any UK-based company employing two or more people, which can demonstrate outstanding success in its field. Awards are made in three categories: International Trade, Innovation and Sustainable Development. The main benefits identified in winning a Queen's Award include the publicity and prestige surrounding the scheme, boosts to staff morale and the right to use the Queen's Award Emblem in all marketing for five years. Winners are presented with a crystal bowl at their own premises by a representative of The Queen, and invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace. Winning an award can also boost sales — some winners have reported increased turnover of up to 30 per cent as the Queens Award raises a company's profile and encourages more customers

to choose their business and it can open doors — to new suppliers, customers, investors and partners. Also, companies use the presentation ceremony to celebrate with their staff and thank them for their contribution and commitment. Is your business good enough? According to the organisers, you should apply only if you can answer a definite "yes" to these four questions:

- Does your business have a base in the UK?
- Does your business employ at least two full-time workers (or part-time equivalent)?
- Do you believe your business is one of the best?
- Can you demonstrate commercial success?

To apply for a 2004 Queen's Award, phone 0870 5 13 44 86 or visit www.queensawards.org.uk to download an application form.

CLEAR SUCCESS: A crystal bowl is presented to winners.



Photograph courtesy of: www.prshots.com



STOP RIGHT THERE: l-r Ken Mazey, Will Martin-Grayston and Craig Edmunds demonstrating "The Blocker"

Doors open to new training centre

A 1,500 sq ft Centre of Excellence for door supervisors has opened its doors in Pontyclyn to train security staff in time for new legislation which comes into force in September. First Training Direct Ltd - a new subsidiary of The First Group - has opened up its SITO/SIA approved training facility at its headquarters at Coedcae Industrial Estate in response to the legislation under which, it is a criminal offence to work as a door supervisor in Wales without an SIA licence. The Security Industry Authority (SIA) manages the licensing of the private security industry. Will Martin-Grayston General Manager at the Centre said: "We have the facilities to train up to one hundred people a week and our

training manager Neil Edmunds is an approved SITO security trainer. We will be helping the local economy and providing new job opportunities as pubs, clubs, restaurants and hotels across Wales will only be able to employ fully qualified staff." Door Supervisor's training will cover key areas such as conflict management, emergency procedures and drug awareness. Will added: "These new regulations ensure the door supervising industry is now professional and regulated. Potential earnings can be anywhere in the region of £35,000 - £40,000 per annum for licensed door supervisors. This increased professionalism has also led to more women joining the industry." Tel: 01 443 224 750

IT update

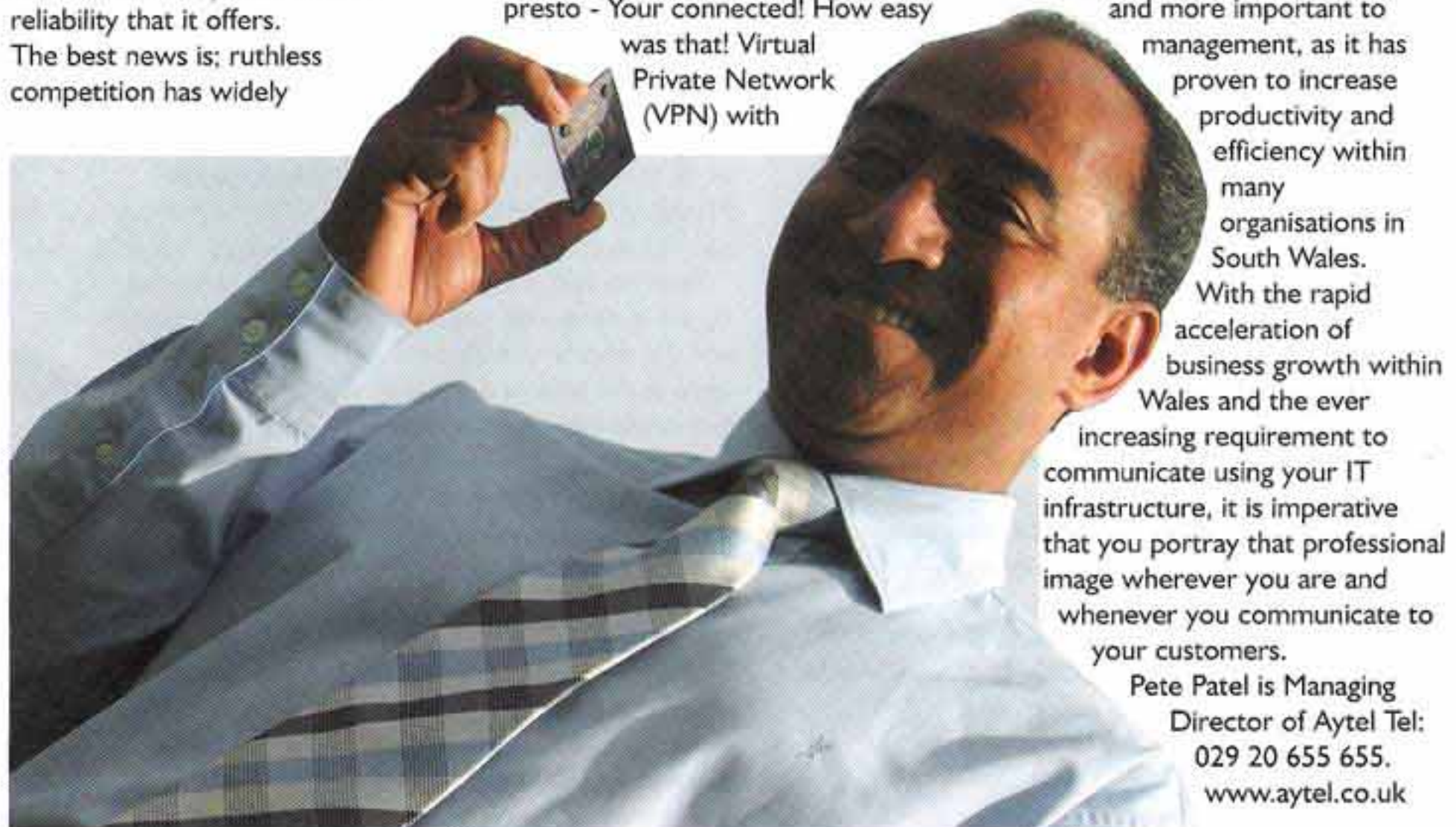
Technology helps you link home and office

By Pete Patel

EXECUTIVES and management often feel the need to break away from the business from time to time to focus on company strategy, business processes and procedures. The introduction of broadband has enabled the many users to benefit from increased speed and the reliability that it offers. The best news is; ruthless competition has widely

increased the availability of various networking products at affordable cost, which not only benefits the consumer but all businesses alike. Implementation of this type of solution is not overly complicated, cost effective in that all you need is broadband at home, at your office with a static IP address, a VPN Firewall router at both ends and hey presto - You connected! How easy was that! Virtual Private Network (VPN) with

enhanced security (authentication, encryption and secure firewalling) decreases the risk of potential compromise to your network. Once implemented; you will benefit from the advantages of having access to your office files, office printers and the company email system, just as though you are sitting in your office. This requirement is becoming more and more important to management, as it has proven to increase productivity and efficiency within many organisations in South Wales. With the rapid acceleration of business growth within Wales and the ever increasing requirement to communicate using your IT infrastructure, it is imperative that you portray that professional image wherever you are and whenever you communicate to your customers.



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