



28<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## Press Release

### **ELEXON PA WINS THE HAYS AND THE TIMES PA OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Laura Richardson, Executive Assistant to ELEXON's Chief Executive, Peter Haigh, was last night awarded the 2010 Hays and The Times PA of the Year Award by Chief Judge Karren Brady. In a glittering ceremony held in London, Laura beat hundreds of other PAs from across the UK, to claim the prestigious title.

Laura, who has worked for ELEXON, a provider of core services to the energy industry, for over 2 years, has also recently passed her Diploma in Personal Assistance with Distinction. She and Peter have only been working together 6 months, after the new Chief Executive started in November last year. Prior to that, Laura had been looking after the previous Chief Executive, the Chairman and the Chief Financial Officer, so she is clearly used to balancing a heavy workload!

Peter said "Everyone here at ELEXON is so proud of Laura. I've found her help and support invaluable over the past 6 months as we develop and grow the business. Laura's customer service skills are second to none, and her dedication to being the best PA she can be is unequalled".

Laura said "I'm absolutely delighted to win PA of the Year! The PA role is evolving so much- I'm really passionate about encouraging other PAs to grow their roles as I have done at ELEXON, and I'm really grateful to Hays and The Times for giving PAs the recognition that they deserve."

Geoff Sims, Director at Hays PA & Secretarial, comments: "As directors continue to battle with a challenging economy, it is the hard work PAs do behind the scenes that allows them to get on with their jobs. Laura won because she is a hardworking and pro-active professional. I wish her the best of luck in her career."

Laura wins a five star holiday for two to Rome, and will hold the title for the next year.

### **About ELEXON**

ELEXON delivers a range of balancing and settlement services that are critical to the successful operation of Great Britain's electricity trading arrangements. We handle over £500 million of our customers' funds each year and interact with every one of the over 200 companies that take part in the electricity industry, who in turn supply over 28 million customers across the country.

As part of our role in ensuring that residential and business electricity settlement takes place, we have expertise in procuring and managing large industry leading contracts for systems and processes, we provide assurance services that the system works, that our customers are complying, and we managed the implementation and development of one of Great Britain's largest energy industry codes, as well as dealing with the ongoing day to day governance.

We've managed extensive industry change over the past 10 years, with the development and introduction of the NETA arrangements, the role out of the Balancing and Settlement Code into the Scottish Market in 2005 (BETTA), undertaken regular reviews and re-procurements of our large contracts (worth over £226 million), and constant updating of the Code itself. We are now perfectly placed to help provide industry leading solutions to the challenges that changes across the energy industry are creating.

## **About The Hays**

Hays plc (the "Group") is the leading global specialist recruiting group. It is the expert at recruiting qualified, professional and skilled people worldwide, being the market leader in the UK and Australia and one of the market leaders in Continental Europe. It operates across the private and public sectors, dealing in permanent positions, contract roles and temporary assignments.

The Group employs over 6,700 staff operating from 345 offices in 28 countries across 17 specialisms.

For the year ended 30 June 2009:

- the Group had revenues of £2.4 billion, net fees of £670.8 million and operating profit of £158.0 million;
- the Group placed around 50,000 candidates into permanent jobs and around 300,000 people into temporary assignments;
- the temporary placement business represented 56% of net fees and the permanent placement business represented 44% of net fees;
- Hays operates in the following countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE and United Kingdom.

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