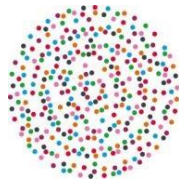


PRESS RELEASE

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Entrepreneurial  
Scotland...

## 2018 Summit Entrepreneurship Awards Winners

- **Entrepreneur of the Year: Derek Pierce, J&D Pierce Contracts**
- **Scale-Up Entrepreneur of the Year: Steven Gray, ROVOP**
- **Rising Star of the Year: Michael Corrigan, Trtl**
- **Intrapreneur of the Year: Robin Watson, Wood plc**
- **Social Entrepreneur of the Year: Celia Hodson, Hey Girls**
- **Young Entrepreneur of the Year: Isla Leslie, Estrela**
- **Academic Entrepreneur of the Year, Dr Caroline Barelle, Elasmogen**

The winners of the inaugural Summit Entrepreneurship Awards were announced last night (Thursday 22 November) at a stellar celebration dinner, in Glasgow.

Designed by STV and Entrepreneurial Scotland to honour our most inspirational established and up-and-coming entrepreneurs, from a range of backgrounds and sectors, the prestigious awards highlight the breadth of Scotland's entrepreneurial talent.

The 2018 Summit Entrepreneurship Awards are supported by Deloitte, Barclays and Scotland is Now. This year's awards are also organised in collaboration with the Scotland CAN DO movement.

**Entrepreneur of the Year was awarded to Derek Pierce**, Managing Director of J&D Pierce Contracts, one of the largest structural steelwork contractors in the UK. The company was established in 1975 in Glengarnock, North Ayrshire, providing light fabrication and general blacksmith work. Today, J&D Pierce, employs 350 staff across six divisions and has been involved in prestigious projects including Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow Queen Street Station redevelopment and Gatwick Airport's new hanger for Boeing.

**Richard Slater, Partner and Head of Entrepreneurial Business in Scotland with Deloitte**, sponsors of the 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award category, said: *"The achievements of J&D Pierce over the past 12 months have been remarkable. Derek and his team have enjoyed standout success at a time when Scotland's entrepreneurs are delivering at home and abroad. Their recent work shows how our local businesses bring tangible benefits to some of the UK's most significant projects."*

**Scale-Up Entrepreneur of the Year was awarded to Steven Gray, CEO of ROVOP**. Steven established the remote operated vehicle (ROV) venture in Aberdeen in 2011, building it into a leading player in the oil, gas, offshore wind, telecoms and power transmission industries. ROVOP now has 51 ROVs and 200 staff in Scotland and the US. The company's global client base includes customers in the UK, EU, Middle East, US, and South America.

**Stuart Brown, Head of SME Scotland & Northern Ireland at Barclays**, the sponsor of the Scale-Up category, said: *"Scaling up is a vital stage in the entrepreneurial lifecycle and one which Barclays is committed to supporting. We have to ensure ambitious companies have the support infrastructure to evolve to the next stage, be that growing revenue, diversifying into new products or entering new markets. ROVOP has done all three. Under Steven's inspiring leadership, it has transformed from an Aberdeen start-up to a global business in just seven years with strong value and employment created, as well as significant further potential. No mean feat in any sector, but particularly powerful given the recent challenges in oil and gas which made him a worthy winner of this award."*

Eighteen-year-old student, Isla Leslie, MD of Estrela, Kirkwall Grammar School's 2017/18 Young Enterprise team, was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

**Cat Leaver, Director at Brand Scotland (Scotland is Now)** who supported the category, commented: *"It's incredibly important for us to consider the legacy of the Year Of Young People and continue to celebrate their many contributions and successes. This award is just the beginning of that. The strength and diversity of the applicants in this category was utterly outstanding, reflecting a huge amount of*

*creativity and vision. Isla displayed entrepreneurial spirit and strong leadership in effectively commercialising an idea that has the potential to really scale. We were hugely impressed by the many complex operations, from manufacturing to distribution chain management that Isla and her team have put in place. Congratulations to her and all the wonderful nominees."*

The awards were established to showcase the impressive range of Scotland's entrepreneurial talent across a mix of industries and sectors, and to shine a light on the people who are creating and growing our most successful enterprises across our private, public and third sectors.

Hosted by broadcaster, Rona Dougall, the awards night at SWG3, was the culmination of a rigorous review of more than 250 nominations to determine the finalists in each of the seven categories. The expert judging panel included some of Scotland's most successful entrepreneurs.

**Sandy Kennedy, Chief Executive of Entrepreneurial Scotland, said:** *"The 2018 Summit Entrepreneurship Awards build on the success of Entrepreneurial Scotland's prestigious national awards, established 22 years ago, and showcase the breadth and depth of Scotland's innovators, change makers and entrepreneurial talent across all sectors. It is more important than ever that we celebrate entrepreneurial role models of all kinds, wherever they are in their journey. Those individuals with a real entrepreneurial mindset are the people who can make the most of emerging opportunities and help us become the most entrepreneurial society in the world."*

**STV Commercial Director, Peter Reilly, said:** *"We are proud to work with inspiring Scottish entrepreneurs every day - people who have established, built and continue to grow thriving businesses for Scotland. At STV we have been privileged to showcase and celebrate fantastic entrepreneurial stories on-air sharing these impressive achievements with Scots across the country. We are delighted to realise the aims of Summit to both inspire future entrepreneurial leaders and to increase awareness amongst consumers of Scottish businesses. A massive congratulations to all our outstanding winners."*

**Ends**

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**Notes to editors:**

Award finalists (*in alphabetical order*) are:

**Entrepreneur of the Year in association with Deloitte**

- **Simon Hannah**, MD, Filshell
- **Derek Pierce**, MD, J&D Pierce Contracts (winner)
- **Chris Stewart**, CEO, Chris Stewart Group

**Scale-Up Entrepreneur of the Year in association with Barclays**

- **Steven Gray**, CEO, ROVOP (winner)
- **Neil Logan**, CEO, Incremental Group
- **Mike Wilson**, Chair, Ecosse IP

**Rising Star of the Year**

- **Michael Corrigan**, MD, Trtl (winner)
- **Kristian Tapaninaho**, Co-founder, Ooni

**Intrapreneur of the Year**

- **Hugh Edmiston**, Corporate Services Director, The University of Edinburgh
- **Mark Hunter**, Chief Information Officer, Sainsbury's Bank
- **Robin Watson**, CEO, Wood plc (winner)

**Social Entrepreneur of the Year**

- **Celia Hodson**, Founder, Hey Girls (winner)
- **Josh Littlejohn**, Co-founder, Social Bite
- **Alan Mahon**, Co-founder, Brewgooder

**Young Entrepreneur of the Year in association with Scotland is Now**

- **Isla Leslie**, MD, Estrela (winner)
- **Erin McGinley**, MD, Emo-G
- **Lucy Sinclair**, Founder, iBaller

**Academic Entrepreneur of the Year**

- **Caroline Barelle**, CEO, Elasmogen (winner)
- **Cait Murray-Green**, CEO, CuanTec
- **Monika Tomecka**, Executive Director, uFraction8

Entrepreneurial Scotland is a member network and leadership development organisation providing opportunities for like-minded ambitious individuals to share experiences and develop their leadership skills. It aims to inspire, develop and connect Scotland's current and future leaders to build the most entrepreneurial society in the world. Entrepreneurial Scotland is also the backbone organisation supporting the Scotland CAN DO movement. [www.entrepreneurialscotland.com](http://www.entrepreneurialscotland.com)

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Scotland CAN DO is a shared statement of intent towards becoming a world-leading entrepreneurial and innovative nation: a CAN DO place for business. This is based on the clear recognition that if we are to achieve sustainable economic growth, and create opportunities for everyone in Scotland to flourish, then we must work together to accelerate entrepreneurship and innovation across Scotland.

*Scotland is Now* is a £6m initiative bringing together the Scottish Government, VisitScotland, Scottish Development International and Universities Scotland to promote the country globally.

## **About STV**

STV is Scotland's leading digital media brand, providing consumers with quality content on air, online and on demand. STV's broadcast channel reaches 3.5 million viewers each month with first-class programming including soaps *Emmerdale* and *Coronation Street*, big drama productions, entertainment hits *The X Factor* and *Britain's Got Talent*, strong home-grown productions and the most comprehensive local news service in the UK.

STV Productions is one of the UK's leading content businesses with ambitious plans for domestic and international growth. The company has a record of success across a range of genres, including drama, entertainment and factual, producing programmes for a variety of broadcasters. Highlights include entertainment show *Catchphrase* for ITV, ratings winner *Antiques Road Trip* for BBC One and documentaries *Britain's Polar Bear Cub* for Channel 4, *Ross Kemp Behind Bars - Inside Barlinnie* for ITV and *Prison: First & Last 24 Hours* for Sky1.

In drama, four part thriller *The Victim* is due for transmission on BBC One, and STV Productions has also confirmed a second BBC commission – 90 minute drama *Elizabeth Is Missing*.

STV's digital business incorporates Scotland's most popular commercial media website, [stv.tv](http://stv.tv), and includes an enhanced digital news app serving consumers local, national and international news as well as features, sport and weather in one place. The STV Player offers consumers within STV's license areas in Scotland the opportunity to enjoy programmes live or on catch-up.

STV content is available across platforms including iOS, Android, YouView and Samsung Smart TV.

