

Lancashire Evening Post
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The home stretch

Remote working under spotlight with new awards

The Remote Worker Awards highlight how remote and home working benefits the environment, business productivity and employees' quality of work life.

Anyone who works remotely, works from home or wants a home based job is entitled to enter, as well as employers who have home workers or a remote work force are invited to enter. The awards, with prizes worth £50,000, come at a time when companies across the UK are faced with down-sizing their workforce and aim to raise awareness for remote and home working as an alternate solution to redundancy and the traditional nine-to-five office routine.

There are several categories. The Work From Home Award will give several entrants the chance to change their career with a toolkit to start their own business and will grant one person their own home-based franchise worth £15,000. And the Vivid Green Award will set one winner up with their own £10,000 Penthouse Garden Office.

The Helen O' Grady Special Award worth £15,000 is open to people with an interest in drama and experience

in teaching children who wish to set up their own home business working in school term time only.

Employees who work remotely or from home can enter the Remote Worker and Home Worker Awards, and all freelancers, self-employed consultants and project contractors can enter the Freelance Consultant Award.

The Open University Skills Award will give the winner a new career with a £2000 Open University prize and two runners-up new job prospects with learning vouchers worth £500. The Remote Employer Award will honour the employer who demonstrates how remote working and

home working has made a beneficial impact on their business.

As well as gaining kudos and credibility in their industry, the winning remote employer will also receive valuable prizes that will increase the effectiveness of their remote workforce.

Paula Wynne, organiser of the awards and co-founder of Remote Employment, a job site specialising in flexible, remote and home working, said: "The Remote Worker Awards will feature the winners in a Remote Worker E-Book to help other companies to implement a flexible and remote working program."

Jeff Zbar, founder of Chief Home Officer in the United States, has been appointed as a Remote Judge.

Fran Currie of Business Link in London said "To beat the recession, small and medium enterprises increasingly have to look at flexible ways to manage their business— including working remotely or from home.

"This awards ceremony is a fitting celebration of small businesses ability to adapt and respond to these difficult times."

For more information call 0844 800 8355 or 020 8133 6329 or go to www.remoteworkerawards.com.



The Remote Worker Awards have lined up a prestigious panel of judges with entrepreneur, Karen Darby, left, founder of SimplySwitch, leading the way. Karen said: "I am looking forward to seeing some brilliant examples of this work culture."

employment

remote



KEY DECISION: One of the prizes will give some entrants the chance to change career and set up their own home business