

City Inn wins top business travel award Best Business Hotel Brand 2006, Business Travel World Awards

City Inn, privately owned group of contemporary hotels led by Sandy and David Orr with hotels in London, Bristol, Birmingham and Glasgow, has been awarded "Best Business Hotel Brand 2006" at the annual Business Travel World Awards. The awards were held at the Grosvenor House hotel in London on Monday, 23 January in front of an audience of 1300 business travel specialists.

Over 150 influential corporate travel buyers voted for the hotel group in the Best Business Hotel Brand in the fewer than 100 properties categories. The shortlist saw City Inn compete against Mandarin Oriental Hotels and Ritz-Carlton with the final vote going to an expert judging panel, made up of experts from the hospitality industry who not only scrutinised each entry, but also researched market feedback before making a final decision.

The judges said that City Inn epitomised the new wave of products and services being created in response to the modern business travel market. "They are meeting the needs of the business traveller with easy access and value for money," said one judge. "They have the wow factor," said another, "City Inn is innovative and understands the needs of today's business traveller." The judges also said that City Inn is, "cool as opposed to hip or luxury. It's perfect for business travellers any corporate's guests would be happy to stay there."

Commenting on the award, City Inn's Chief Executive and co-founder David Orr said: "It is really fantastic to get a further award that clearly is our most important to date because it is recognition for the brand. I believe it shows that we are really making a mark with our customers' needs in a way that clearly makes a difference for them. Our culture is to make the experience of our Brand classy, reliable, value for money, interesting, personal and forward thinking. I am delighted for our colleagues who work so hard to deliver day in day out they deserve this recognition - it gives us even more incentive to grow our company. "

City Inn's Best Business Hotel Brand award recognises the efforts that the group has gone to in providing the business traveller with reliability, comfort, security and the ability to control travel spend through highly transparent charges with many services available on a complimentary basis.

The panel of judges included David Brown, Vice President of Gulliver's Travel Associates; Alan Coles, Managing Director of P&O Travel; John Morgan, Commercial Director of GB Airways; Michael Prager, Managing Director of Delta Squared; Melvin Pugh, Strategic Purchasing Manager of Zurich Financial; and Linda Robertson, Business Travel Services Manager of British American Tobacco.

www.cityinn.com

Issued on behalf of:
CITY INN CONTEMPORARY HOTELS

24 January 2006

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Notes to Editors:

A relative newcomer to the hotel scene (their first hotel opened in Bristol in 1999), City Inn continues to evolve and to add value to the guest experience. This has been recognised by the industry and consumers through a number of awards and accolades. In addition to the Business Travel World Award, City Inn picked up Group Hotel of the Year 2005 at the annual Caterer & Hotelkeeper Awards; Top 5 Best UK Hotels, Guardian/Observer Travel Awards 2004 and Most Improved Brand, BDRC Guest Survey 2004, to name but a few.

City Inn focuses on building and operating brand new contemporary styled hotels to highest engineering standards in prime city centre locations. Delivering beyond the guest's expectation is central to the brand's philosophy and this is nowhere more evident than when catering for the business traveller. Their initiatives demonstrate a clear understanding of the business traveller's needs, no fuss easy access to free broadband wifi in all public areas throughout the group just one example of many.

Founded in 1995 by Sandy Orr, Donald MacDonald and David Orr, the City Inn brand and company was created completely from scratch providing contemporary luxury with a culture of personalised service and complete commitment to putting the customer first. Each hotel features the highly acclaimed City Café destination restaurant characterised by the Al Fresco terraces for the summer, with exceptional Chefs offering modern European dining with panache and flair. The buildings reflect the close relationship between architect and client, ensuring that the buildings are great for the cities as well as customers.

Eleven years on City Inn is now recognised as one of the UK's most exciting new hotel groups, with four stylish properties open in the UK one under construction in the prime location in Manchester's city centre. **The business has grown, supported by loyal customers in each City, excellent staff and positive shareholders.**

The company is continuing to pursue a strategy of developing City Inn in prime UK city centres, to include Leeds, Edinburgh and further sites in London and is set to create in excess of 750 new careers. They also plan to lead the brand into Europe and the United States.