

20 February 2009

HRH The Prince of Wales visits Alliance Boots

Alliance Boots was delighted to welcome His Royal Highness (HRH) The Prince of Wales on a visit to the home of Boots in Nottingham earlier today. This tour gave HRH the opportunity to discover more about the heritage and history of Boots as well as the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities of Alliance Boots, which is a leading international pharmacy-led health and beauty group with two core businesses: pharmacy-led health and beauty retailing (operating more than 3,200^{*} health and beauty retail outlets, of which over 2,900^{*} have a pharmacy) and pharmaceutical wholesaling (operating over 370^{*} pharmaceutical wholesale warehouses delivering to over 135,000^{*} pharmacies, doctors, health centres and hospitals).

The event was hosted by Stefano Pessina (Executive Chairman, Alliance Boots) with Ornella Barra (Chief Executive, Pharmaceutical Wholesale Division, Alliance Boots), Steve Duncan (Executive Chairman, Health & Beauty) and Alex Gourlay (Chief Executive, Health & Beauty Division, Alliance Boots).

Alliance Boots manages its CSR programme based on four key areas of activity that are in line with its core values: community, environment, marketplace and workplace. During the site tour, HRH received an overview of the Group's CSR activities in these key areas, with a particular focus on environmental progress, given Alliance Boots' commitment to The Prince's May Day Network on climate change, of which HRH is founder.

HRH visited the Technical Centre to understand more about how new Boots products and packaging are being developed as its strategy is to take a holistic approach to product sustainability. HRH also visited the Energy Centre, a combined heat and power station that supplies the Beeston site, where he was informed about energy efficiency at Boots. Finally, HRH was shown around the Boots Contract Manufacturing factory to see products being manufactured and packed on site where recycling initiatives have resulted in a significant increase in the amount of waste being recycled.

Stefano Pessina, Executive Chairman of Alliance Boots, said: "At Alliance Boots we are committed to maintaining our tradition of excellence both as a business and the way in which we conduct our business. We are honoured that His Royal Highness chose to visit our site and gave us the opportunity to show how we are managing our business responsibly and continually trying to improve our impact on the environment through innovation and efficiency."

Stephen Howard, Chief Executive, Business in the Community, commented: "Alliance Boots is a leading member of the Prince's May Day Network. Through sharing low-carbon good practice, it is helping to inspire others to begin to reduce their carbon emissions and move the UK towards a low carbon economy."

ENDS

Editor's Notes:

Alliance Boots is an international pharmacy-led health and beauty group with two core businesses, pharmacy-led health and beauty retailing and pharmaceutical wholesaling. Working in partnership with manufacturers and pharmacists, the Group delivers a range of products and services that help millions of consumers and patients look and feel their best. Formed on 31 July 2006, Alliance Boots is privately owned and employs over 110,000^{*} employees. It has a presence in over 20^{*} countries operating over 370^{*} pharmaceutical wholesale warehouses delivering to over 135,000^{*} pharmacies, doctors, health centres and hospitals. It operates more than 3,200^{*} health and beauty retail outlets, of which over 2,900^{*} have a pharmacy dispensing more than 210 million^{*} items each year.

^{*} Figures stated are as at 31 March 2008, are approximate and include associates and joint ventures.

The Prince's May Day Network

The Prince's May Day network is the largest group of businesses committed to taking action to tackle climate change, through energy efficiency and by embracing the necessary move to a low carbon economy. The network was founded by The Prince of Wales in 2007 and is convened by Business in the Community (BITC). It currently stands at 1,350 and aims to grow to 10,000 organisations by 2012. It is hoped that through collaborative action the Network will make an aggregated 10% reduction in carbon emissions by 2012, based on a 2008 baseline figure.

On 1 May 2009, the Network will convene for the third time at events across the UK to share best practice and set future challenges. www.maydaynetwork.com

Alliance Boots is a leading member of Business in the Community, one of The Prince of Wales' charities, which inspires, engages, supports and challenges companies to continually improve the impact that they have on society and the environment. Responsible business is embedded in the ethos and working practices of the group.

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