

Proud Nickie has really Gott It now



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WOMAN POWER: Nickie Gott, Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, with other winners and runners-up at The Sage, Gateshead.

By Graeme King

THE North-East's top female entrepreneur has been crowned at a glittering awards ceremony.

Nickie Gott, of events management company She's Gott It! won the Susan Dobson Award for Entrepreneurship and was named North East Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2007.

Over 700 people attended the event at The Sage Gateshead on Friday which was compered by Julia Hankin of BBC Radio Newcastle.

Nickie, who formed the company in 2002, impressed the judges with her professional and inventive approach to events management and communications.

With an impressive portfolio of major projects in the public, private and voluntary sector, the latest contract has seen Nickie win a four-year deal to deliver the world's biggest winter festival in Edinburgh.

She said: "I've never felt so proud. Loads of people have believed in me for a long time, and have put their faith in me - my family and my team.

"We as a company have achieved so much over the last five years that I have to stop and pinch myself on a number of occasions."

The North East Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, were developed and organised by Women Into the Network (WIN) of Durham Business School, and sponsored by One NorthEast and South Tyneside Council

The nine categories were sponsored by a host of organisations including *The Journal*, South Tyneside Council, Thompson Building Centres, North East Social Enterprise Partnership (NESEP), Arts Council England, Northumberland County Council, University of Teesside, Solutions Recruitment and The Susan Dobson Memorial Fund.

Lisa Vickers, WIN's events and communications manager, said: "The awards are a perfect platform for us and our sponsors to bring recognition to the phenomenal amount of talented women running businesses here in the North-East.

"Over the years our winners have grown their businesses substantially, gone on to win national awards and, most importantly, acted as role models for the many other women running businesses or thinking of starting an enterprise.

"I have no doubt that this year's winners will



WINNER: Nickie Gott, of events management company She's Gott It!



WELL DONE: Margaret Clare gives the Woman in Service award to Janice Auton.

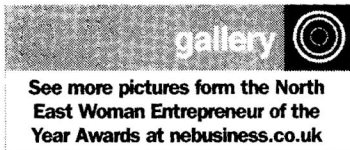
follow in their footsteps, continue to grow and help encourage more women into self-employment."

"The awards were on a much bigger scale this year - we almost doubled in capacity and tickets still sold out well in advance. People recognise the importance of these awards which is why it will always be one of the most popular and highly rated business competitions in the region".

Margaret Fay, chairman of One NorthEast, and a long-time supporter of WIN and the awards, said: "The continuing development of women's enterprise offers our region enormous untapped potential. These awards continue to motivate and inspire our women entrepreneurs and I congratulate WIN for bringing together another successful event."

Rick O'Farrell, head of enterprise & regeneration at South Tyneside Council, said: "We are delighted to support the awards. The nominees and winners are a real inspiration to people throughout the region, and our congratulations go to them all.

"South Tyneside has always been a place where successful women make their ideas happen. It is a place where creativity, determination, dedication, and entrepreneurial skills and talent continue to flourish."



See more pictures from the North East Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards at nebusiness.co.uk

THE winners in The North East Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards 2007 are:

- North East Woman Entrepreneur of the Year 2007 - Nickie Gott of She's Gott It!
- Best Newcomer - sponsored by The Journal - Delyth Raffell of TwinsUK
- Young Woman Entrepreneur - Rebecca Philipson of UR In the Paper Ltd
- Woman in Retail - Jan Massey & Melanie Crow of Photography for Little People
- Woman Social Entrepreneur - Kate Welch of Acumen Community Enterprise Development Trust Ltd
- Best Cultural and Creative Business - Sue Moffitt of Fiefiefom
- Rural Woman Entrepreneur - Gill Burgess of r//evolution marketing UK Ltd
- Woman in Technology or Innovation - Elaine Hall of The Alternative Supply Company Ltd
- Woman in the Service Sector - Janice Auton of Poppys Hairdressing Ltd