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North Wales Police Force Shortlisted for National Business Awards

*Arming officers on the street with BlackBerrys transforms business and saves force
£1,000,000*

London, UK – North Wales Police (NWP) and Niche Technology are delighted to announce that the force has been shortlisted for the National Business Awards, in the Best Use of Technology in Business category. Fast becoming a leader in recognising excellence in UK business achievement, innovation and success, the National Business Awards is the UK's most sought-after business accolade and is referred to as the "Business Oscars."

In order to be shortlisted, North Wales Police had to demonstrate effective use of business technology in creating a significant and exploitable competitive or operational advantage in a business area. Evidence was required of a well thought-out and executed strategy, addressing not only the deployment of the technology, but also its effective uptake by employees and stakeholders.

NWP created an operational advantage through the implementation of mobility and self service, allowing officers to access the force's computer systems remotely while on the street. Having implemented Niche RMS, the police information management system, in 2002, the force subsequently combined and tested mobile technology with RMS, using Research in Motion Inc's BlackBerry.

The project combining Niche RMS and BlackBerry mobile technologies has been so successful that more than 1,000 officers are now using the handheld devices. The solution is formally accredited in terms of security, is scalable, and a robust deployment model has been developed. Increased officer visibility and productivity mean that efficiencies valued at more than £1m over 3 years are attributed to the project in the force efficiency plan.

"We are pleased that the National Business Awards has recognized North Wales Police and its technology initiative as a finalist for this prestigious award," says John James, Director of Operations and Business Development for Niche Technology Inc. "North Wales' vision was to consolidate systems and mobilise information to front line staff; Niche RMS has been at the heart of this delivery, and combining Niche RMS with mobile data solutions such as BlackBerry provides enhanced access to police data and delivers information where operational staff need it most – on the street."

"Policing on the street is different from a desk-bound job and effective mobile solutions have to reflect this. Using Niche RMS and BlackBerry technology, officers in North Wales have easy access to a wealth of information that helps them to do their job," says Sergeant Aled Eynon, Business Change Manager on the BlackBerry project. "We are delighted that our efforts are being recognised by the National Business Awards and we look forward to the finals."



Niche Technology, Inc., based in Winnipeg, Canada, is one of the world's leading suppliers of operational policing systems. Ten UK police forces are currently using Niche RMS: North Wales, South Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire, Hampshire, Cleveland, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Northern Ireland and Wiltshire.

Winners of the National Business Awards will be announced on Tuesday November 13, 2007 at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

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About Niche Technology and Niche RMS:

Niche Technology is a privately owned Canadian company specializing in law enforcement software. Niche Records Management System (RMS) is the only unified police information management system on the market and is used by over 80,000 sworn officers in 96 agencies worldwide. Niche's commercial-off-the-shelf solution (COTS) streamlines all aspects of operational policing, providing effective and efficient solutions for law enforcement agencies. Niche RMS is currently used by nearly 50% of all Canadian Police officers, including Canada's federal police agency the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, nearly 25% of all UK police officers including the Police Service of Northern Ireland, and Australia's Queensland Police Service. For more information, go to www.nicherms.com

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