

**Star Social Firms**  
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**Finding a Star Social Firm**

Campaigners hope the new Star Social Firm award will become as well known as the FairTrade mark. These are the five enterprises that have already won the award



Social enterprise Pluss offers training and recruitment services to people with disabilities

**Bizmatch**

Led by managing director and co-founder Geoff Tunstall, Bizmatch runs four operations across Herefordshire and parts of Worcestershire; Spokes bicycle recycling and repairs, Regard horticultural products and training, Cando business services and Ncoda antique restoration and trading. 25 people currently work at Bizmatch, 12 of whom are severely disadvantaged in the job market.

## **Pembrokeshire Frame Limited**

Led by CEO and founder Jenny Sims, this community re-use company provides opportunities for severely disadvantaged people to test their abilities, undertake real work, develop new skills and change the direction of their lives. In the past 12 months the company has collected and renovated more than 35,000 unwanted items of furniture to help individuals and families refurbish their homes.

## **Initiative for Social Entrepreneurs (I'SE)**



The Star Social Firm logo From its base in Birmingham, I'SE runs training, events and business support for other third-sector organisations, including social enterprises, to better deliver public sector contracts. One of the approaches is to help win procurements from the public sector. Led by CEO Sarah Crawley, I'SE works across the West Midlands.

## **Pluss**

500 people work at Pluss and 260 are severely disadvantaged in the job market. The company offers disabled people a range of training and recruitment services together with direct employment in their own manufacturing and mobility equipment business. Already identified as one of the best social firms by the Adult Learning Inspectorate, Pluss has supported over 2,000 people in work and training over the last year and has an annual turnover of £20m.

## **Haven Products Limited**

Haven helps companies outsource things like packaging and clients include Morgan Stanley and the Highland council. Every employee is trained to exceed customer expectations and most people in this highly skilled and trained workforce are disabled. Led by managing director David M Whyte, Haven won SME of the Year in the Scottish Business in the Community Awards 2006 and this October Haven was one of the four winners of the national Social Enterprise Award 2007.