



PRESS RELEASE

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Amtrak voted ‘parcel company of the year’

*Bristol, UK, 16 June 2004...*The express transport industry has voted Amtrak as ‘Parcel Company of the Year’ following an independent industry survey undertaken by the online news channel, E-CourierNews. Amtrak Express Parcels won a surprising 42% of the vote, winning over many of the well known multi-nationals.

The ‘Parcel Company of the Year’ award resulted from an online survey sent to three thousand industry professionals asking who they rated as the best parcel company. It provides a clear insight into perceptions within the parcel industry and is a reflection of Amtrak’s resurgence as a key player under new management.

“42% voted Amtrak as the best parcel company. This is a remarkable result bearing in mind the large number of carriers competing in the market. Amtrak completely out performed many of well-known names and it must be a resounding success for a company that was struggling just a few years ago. Amtrak sets a clear example to the industry and we hope other privately-run UK companies will be encouraged by what can be achieved in a tough, internationally competitive market” said Maurice Birkett, Editor of E-CourierNews.

E-CourierNews (www.e-couriernews.co.uk) has become the primary industry source of news within the express industry. The news channel represents the broad range of services from courier, parcel and freight reporting on developments amongst both transport firms, suppliers and shippers - the industry’s customers.

Amtrak won the UK-wide national vote with SPDS taking the honours in Scotland. Around 70% of the votes came from the parcel and courier trade. The remaining 30% came from retailers, manufacturers, advisors and other businesses; mostly customers to the industry.

“Amtrak are delighted with the award. We have never set out to be the biggest but want to be the best in our chosen markets. Our plans include expansion of our unique services, particularly at the premium end of the home delivery market.” Comments Jonathan Smith, Managing Director of Amtrak.

E-CourierNews was launched in December 2002 and this is the first year for the industry awards that will become an annual event. Other categories include best commercial vehicle with results classified by size. The Peugeot 206, Vauxhall Combo, Renault Traffic and Ford Transit won their respective groups in the 2004 survey. For courier and parcel industry news, see the latest newsletter at www.e-couriernews.co.uk/current.html#i1.

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