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PRESS INFORMATION

Industry awards success for The Phone Co-op

The Phone Co-op has been presented with two awards by the Federation of Communications Services (FCS), the trade association for the telecoms industry. The Reseller of the Year and Green Awards were presented by journalist John Sergeant at the FCS' 30th anniversary dinner.

The Phone Co-op was named 2011 Reseller of the Year, an award which recognises the contribution made to competition by the reseller who has carved a niche for themselves in a very competitive space and the innovation and service levels they have employed in doing so.

The co-operative also won the FCS Green Award for large business, the third consecutive year that it has won their Green award, in recognition of its efforts in addressing environmental issues.

Vivian Woodell, chief executive of The Phone Co-op, commented, "We are delighted to have won the Reseller of the Year award, an acknowledgement that we have become a significant presence in a challenging and busy market. It is our belief that our commitment to doing business differently from many of our competitors, something which is driven by the fact that we are owned by our customers rather than by external investors, is the key to our success. We are also pleased that we continue to be pioneers in the area of environmental awareness, and in improving our practice, as well as in measuring what we do so that we can improve it further. It underlines how the combined impact of lots of small decisions, on how to travel or to ensure that computers and lights are turned off when they are not being used, can make a big difference."

Jacqui Brookes, Chief Executive Officer at FCS, added, "Congratulations to The Phone-Co-op for winning two FCS awards this year. The business has been judged to be an innovative player in the communications reseller market as well as displaying excellent environmental awareness credentials - well done to the whole team."

Notes for editors:

1 The **Federation of Communication Services** (FCS) is the Trade Association for the communication services sector representing companies delivering products and services by means of radio, mobile, fixed and IP telephony. For more information visit www.fcs.org.uk

2 **The Phone Co-op** is the UK's only telecommunications co-operative, procuring telecommunications services on behalf of its customers, many of whom are co-operatives, charities and other not-for-profit organisations. The Phone Co-op's service has been taken up by over 15,000 customers, including Midcounties, Channel Islands, Southern, East of England, and Radstock Co-operative Societies, Suma Wholefoods, Christian Aid, Amnesty International, Triodos Bank, the Centre for Alternative Technology, Manchester City Council and Unison. As a co-operative owned by its customer members, The Phone Co-op distributes any profits which are not re-invested back to members via a dividend based on each member's spend and through a loan fund which supports other co-operatives. For more information, visit www.thephone.coop

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