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**ABACUS SUPPORTS THE FUTURE OF THE LIGHTING INDUSTRY
LIF Outstanding Student of the Year Award Held in London**

Allan Crutchley of Thorn Lighting has been awarded the Lighting Industry Federation (LIF) Outstanding Student of the Year 2010. The prominent industry awards, sponsored by Abacus Lighting for the past nine years, were established to recognise the most outstanding student on the LIF Certificate course.

The course provides education in lighting on a national level for people involved in the design/specification, maintenance, and sale of lighting equipment.

Allan was one of three finalists who attended the awards ceremony, this year held in London for the first time at the prestigious private members club, One Alfred Place.

The awards were attended by members of Lighting Industry Federation (LIF), Lighting Education Trust (LET), Professional Lighting Designers Association (PLDA), Society of Light and Lighting (SLL), International Association of Lighting Designers (IALD), , Institute of Lighting Engineers (ILE) and Young Lighting Professionals (YLP) with an introduction from Ray Malony, editor of Lighting Magazine ahead of that evening's Lighting Design Awards at the Hilton, Park Lane.

The winner, Allan Crutchley was said to have impressed judges with his imagination and use of space as well as a succinct and informative written presentation.

John Hugill, Training Manager for LIF commented: "Alan's entry was a great example of the use of creativity and control in lighting. He demonstrated the ability to light a space for visual comfort whilst harmonising the effect with lighting controls. I am pleased that the LIF Certificate Course, which has now run for over 20 years, goes from strength to

strength and would very much like to thank Abacus for their continued involvement with the award."

Allan commented: "I'm thrilled to be chosen as the winner. I dedicated a lot of time and effort to the LIF course and it's great to be rewarded in this way. Not only has the course been really helpful for my day to day work, but it has inspired me to keep studying and I'm now looking to enrol on the advanced course too!"

Geoff Hall, Managing Director of Abacus presented Allan with a £500 cheque and commemorative trophy. He added: "Abacus is always delighted to be involved with this esteemed award and to work with the LIF. We highly value the importance of training and development within the industry."

The runners up were Alan Lipinski of Thorlux Lighting and Ian David McNeill of Iluma. Both received a £250 cheque for their presentation entry.

The success of the LIF courses is demonstrated in the support for the Awards event by both the industry and its institutions. The number of students from the lighting industry and other individuals enrolled each year has continued to increase. The courses satisfy the academic requirements for The Society of Light and Lighting Awards and can be instrumental in gaining Membership of the Society as well as the Society's Lighting Diploma.

More information about the Lighting Industry Federation and the courses available can be found at www.lif.co.uk

Ends

Photo: From left to right, Eddie Taylor, CEO of LIF, the winner Allan Crutchley of Thorn Lighting and Geoff Hall, Managing Director of Abacus.



For further information about Abacus Lighting and the LIF awards, please contact Kirstie Cannings, Toast PR. Tel: 0870 094 8032 Email: kirstiecannings@toastpr.co.uk