



Media: Runcorn Weekly News  
Date: 02/08/2007  
Type: General Consumer  
Frequency: 52/Per year  
Circulation: 42491  
MediaDisk Ref: 72B-484  
Page: 27



## Eco builders aim for big win

A WIDNES manufacturer of environmentally friendly housing materials has been named as the regional winner of the HSBC Start-Up Stars Business Awards.

Widnes company SIB Build Ltd, which specialises in structural insulating panels, was picked ahead of hundreds of hopeful businesses for the West, Wales, and Northern Ireland regional final.

If successful, the company will go on to compete in the national final at a gala dinner at London's Dorchester Hotel on October 24.

David Ball, 44, Dr Sanjay

By **Oliver Clay**

Pitalia, 44, and Peter Barr, 32, started SIP Build less than two years ago, and are now hoping to clinch one of the top titles and take a share of the £85,000 prize.

Staff at the company were delighted with their success, which benefited from some timely opportunism.

Technical manager Kevin Platt said: 'We entered the competition on a whim.

'We were standing in a queue in the bank and saw the advert for the competition and managed to submit our entry a

couple of days before the deadline.

'When the result came through, we were over the moon.'

SIP Build's eco-friendly material is produced from wood imported from sustainable timber plantations in Scandanavia, and uses 50% less timber than from conventional plantations.

The material is ten times more efficient in terms of insulation than traditional materials.

The use of such green materials may revolutionise UK building methods. They have also secured contracts in Cyprus and France.