

## **PPMA SHOW AND STARPACK AWARDS CO-LOCATE**

The prestigious Starpack 2009 Dinner and Awards Ceremony is to take place alongside this year's PPMA Show at the NEC on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. The dinner provides the perfect evening entertainment and networking opportunity for both exhibitors and visitors alike during the busy 3-day exhibition.

Organised by IOP: The Packaging Society, Starpack is the UK's premier annual scheme recognising innovation in packaging design and technology. The awards, which have become an integral part of the industry calendar, are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2009.

The 2009 awards feature a variety of categories covering both technical innovation and design and marketing. A major development for 2009 is the PPMA-sponsored Packaging Machinery Award of Excellence, which will honour significant advances in machinery design or development.

Two new environmental categories have also been introduced this year to acknowledge the increasing number of developments and interest in sustainable packaging. In addition, several individual performance awards will be presented, including Best Packaging Designer or Design House, Best Young Packaging Professional and Best Student of the Year.

The Awards will take place on the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> September in the Concourse Suite at the NEC. Full details of the evening's entertainment will be announced shortly.

"We are delighted that the Starpack ceremony will take place during the PPMA Show," comments Dr Gordon Stewart, Head of PIABC at IOP: The Packaging Society. "The awards are always a highlight of the packaging year, so it is appropriate that they should be held alongside another long-established and well regarded industry event."

Ian Crawford, Group Exhibition Director, PPMA Show, welcomed the decision to hold the Starpack ceremony during the exhibition:

"The focus of the packaging and processing industry will, as usual, be on the NEC and the PPMA Show this September, and this will provide the perfect setting to salute this year's winners and achievers."