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**PRESS COVERAGE**  
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## Diary Dates

BUSINESS advisers from TEDCO will be based at the Centre for the Community in Robinson Street, South Shields, between 1.30pm and 3.30pm on the second and last Tuesday of every month.

No appointment is necessary and anyone looking for advice on getting into business is welcome to attend.

**Friday, June 10**  
NORTH East dinner of the Civil Engineering Contractors' Association (CECA), Marriott Gosforth Park Hotel.

**Tuesday, June 21**  
BUSINESS in the Community Awards for Excellence champagne lunch, Riverside Restaurant, Baltic, noon-2.30pm.

This event will showcase the best regional examples of responsible business practice. Come along and find out more about the success of companies in the area, as well as enjoying the

chance to network with key business leaders and hear from special guest speaker, North East businessman-turned-Polar explorer Conrad Dickinson.

For more information tel 0191 487 7799 or e-mail [Ruth.Poulten@bitc.org.uk](mailto:Ruth.Poulten@bitc.org.uk)

**Friday, July 29**  
DEADLINE for the One NorthEast-backed E-Commerce Awards, with a first prize of £50,000.

The regional development agency is sponsoring the regional heat – with winners getting the chance to compete for the grand prize in the national final in October.

The awards are run by the Department of Trade and Industry and Interforum, a not-for-profit organisation helping British businesses trade electronically.

Businesses or organisations, including public sector bodies, are invited to enter – as long as they employ fewer than 250 people, across six categories: Best Sales and Marketing online;

Best Customer Care online; Best Integrated Business; Best use of Broadband; Best use of Teleworking; Best use of Mobile and Wireless Technology.

The regional awards take place at a special gala dinner in September with winners in each category receiving a cheque for £1,000. They then automatically qualify to compete in the final with a special awards dinner in London in October.

Businesses can enter through the awards website: [www.ecommerce-awards.co.uk](http://www.ecommerce-awards.co.uk).

**Thursday, September 1**  
CLOSING date for the North East Excellence Awards 2005, organised by not-for-profit Excellence North East.

**Tuesday, September 6-Friday, September 9**  
OFFSHORE Europe exhibition, Aberdeen. Tyne and Wear Development Company is working in partnership with the Northern

Offshore Federation and Newcastle City Council to organise a North of England regional presence at this exhibition.

Around 27 sq mtrs of stand space has been reserved in the blue zone, which will be branded "North of England Oil and Gas Suppliers".

Tyne and Wear Development Company is offering three different attendee packages to companies operating in the offshore sector – co-exhibitor, delegate and a brochure service.

For more information, contact Tyne and Wear Development Company on 0191 516 9099 or e-mail [locations@tyne-wear.co.uk](mailto:locations@tyne-wear.co.uk).

**Friday, September 16**  
Closing date for nominations for the Sunderland Echo Portfolio Business Awards.

**Thursday, October 20**  
Sunderland Echo Portfolio Business Awards dinner, Stadium of Light.