

## STOBARTS AND SAGE WIN BIG AT FIRST EVER ITSHOWCASE AWARDS AT INTERBUILD 2006

*West Cumbrian multidiscipline contractor celebrates with the UK's largest business management software company in joint award*



**25 April 2006, Cumbria, UK** – Stobarts Ltd and Sage (UK) Limited were awarded Best Construction Process Management Software Implementation at the inaugural ITShowcase Awards presented at Interbuild 2006 at the NEC in Birmingham this month.

The award recognises the delivery of an IT Strategy and implementation that has produced the most tangible business benefit in construction process management.

Christopher Rogan, Stobarts Ltd's Business Improvement Manager, pleased with the recognition of the hard work carried out by both Stobarts and Sage commented: "This is a testament to the Sage Construction team which has continuously risen to the high standards and challenges that Stobarts sets. Our personal thanks must be given to Roy Fowles, Sage Construction's Senior Consultant, for all his efforts in reaching this achievement." He continues: "As a company we innovate through the acquisition of cutting-edge technology to manage our business processes. A great success of the Sage Construct project was our triple accreditation to international standards for quality, environment and safety, presented in January of this year. True to the spirit of the ISO standards, Stobarts has a core belief of dynamism and continual improvement through early adoption of new technology in an industry that often lags behind. We relish change in our business and also in 'building partnerships' with suppliers that realise the potential of Stobarts and share a passion for innovative technology that can be used to unleash this potential."

Commenting on Stobarts' future capital investment in technology, Christopher concludes: "Winning this award certainly won't lead us to complacency; we firmly believe that much more can be achieved. All of the management team are proud to be one of the UK's fastest growing businesses and support capital expenditure projects that deliver a significant return on investment. We have plans already in development that will radically change the way our business is managed and will see a redistribution of our administrative staff from roles centring on client compliance into value-creating activities that will ultimately lead to an unsurpassed level of customer service."

Andrea Gibson, Sage (UK) Limited's Marketing Programmes Manager, Construction Solutions, said: "In the 25 years that we've been in business, we've built up a deep understanding of the needs of contractors and today over 60,000 construction businesses in the UK already rely on Sage. We are delighted to have been involved this winning project and we look forward to continuing our relationship with Stobarts in the future."

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## Notes to Editors

### About Stobarts:

Stobarts Ltd is a multidiscipline contractor working in the construction, nuclear, decommissioning and facilities management industries.

Based in West Cumbria, Stobarts was established over 20 years ago by John Stobart supplying joinery services. Today, the company leads as a major contractor on many projects throughout Cumbria, North Lancashire, South Scotland and Northumbria, with high profile clients such as British Nuclear Group, NHS, Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency. Services provided include building, civil engineering, demolition, decommissioning, ground works, term contracts, nuclear works, formwork, joinery, responsive repairs and maintenance.

Stobarts Ltd's commitment to providing high quality services has seen the company grow rapidly over the past five years to employ 250 people across a number of sites in construction and facilities management roles. This growth was recognised by inclusion in the 2005 Sunday Times Fast Track 100, which identifies the UK's most rapidly growing businesses, following average sales increases of 66% per year, from an annualised £2.2m in 2001 to £9.8m in 2004. Stobarts Ltd also holds Investors in People accreditation and was recognised as Business of the Year 2004/2005 by the North West Accountants Society. [www.stobarts.com](http://www.stobarts.com)

### About Sage:

Sage (UK) Limited is a subsidiary of The Sage Group plc, a leading international supplier of business management software solutions. Formed in 1981, the Group was floated on the stock exchange in 1989 and now employs over 10,000 people worldwide in its market leading companies throughout Europe and the USA. Further press information is available at <http://www.sagepresscentre.co.uk> or at <http://www.sage.co.uk>

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