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For Immediate Release

NHS Shared Business Services named UK Central Government Supplier of the Year

NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS), the market leader in business support services for the NHS, has been named Central Government Supplier of the Year at the Government Business Awards.

NHS SBS works with 40% of NHS Trusts to provide shared business services such as Finance & Accounting, Payroll and Family Health Services. A unique joint venture between the Department of Health and Steria, NHS SBS was established in 2005 to help NHS Trusts streamline back-office functions and deliver greater operational efficiency, thus enabling key staff to focus on frontline care.

NHS SBS announced in June last year that it had delivered £1.06 million in royalties back to the Department of Health, to be re-distributed to existing NHS Trusts and organisations which are NHS SBS clients. The joint venture has most recently launched NHS SBS Commercial Procurement Solutions, a new business service that could drive efficiencies of more than €1 billion in NHS procurement over the next five years.

The Government Business Awards recognise effective business practices in the public sector.

Sofie Lidelfjard, Editor of Government Business, commented, "The efficiencies that NHS SBS has generated for NHS Trusts really have made huge difference to helping the NHS work towards the savings targets set by Central Government. Their achievements speak for themselves."

"Winning this accolade is a fantastic achievement, and reflects the hard work of our people at NHS SBS," said John Neilson, Chief Executive, NHS SBS. He continued, "Being recognised as Central Government Supplier of the Year affirms our position as the market leader in business support for the NHS and acknowledges the contribution we have made to NHS efficiency and cost savings."

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Note to Editors

About NHS Shared Business Services: www.sbs.nhs.uk

NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS) is a unique joint venture between the UK Department of Health and Steria, and is the market leader in business support services for the NHS. It currently provides Finance & Accounting, Payroll, Family Health Services and Commercial Procurement Solutions to all types of NHS organisations. More than 27 million people in England have NHS healthcare delivered by NHS SBS clients.

NHS SBS provides a range of value added services to enable NHS trusts to focus on strategic decision making and business improvement activities, whilst benefiting from operational efficiencies and real cost savings of between 20% and 40%.

With over 1,400 people employed and in excess of 4.5 million transactions processed per annum, NHS SBS works with over 40% of NHS organisations to deliver operational efficiencies, cost savings and improved service quality. NHS SBS is on target to deliver substantial cost savings to NHS trusts and organisations.

NHS SBS was cited in the 2009 HM Treasury Budget Report "improving efficiency in back office functions by building on the success of NHS Shared Business Services" and also featured in the OEP final report on efficiency savings.

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