

ROCHFORD FIRM WINS £5,000 AWARD IN IXION CHALLENGE

Ixion Holdings, based in Great Baddow, Chelmsford, have just named Hanningfield Process Systems of Rochford, Essex, as one of two runners-up in this year's prestigious Ixion Challenge.

Ixion Holdings Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation, passionate about giving back to the community. The Ixion Challenge was launched in 2008 to help businesses in the East of England that are helping themselves to cope during the recession.

Hanningfield Process Systems run by father and son team Colin and James Ellis, has provided the design and manufacture of process equipment for the pharmaceutical and associated industries since 1987. The company takes an innovative approach, providing bespoke solutions for companies worldwide. This, along with a sound business plan, has seen the company win £5,000 in cash to help them deliver their business development plans.

James Ellis said, "We are absolutely delighted to be in the final three of this year's competition – it is a great accomplishment for all of us. We are trying to achieve something special here, so it is extremely encouraging that an expert panel shares our vision. We would like to thank Ixion for the fantastic opportunity."

Margaret Hyde, non-executive chair of Ixion Holdings and chairman of the Ixion Challenge judging panel, said, "We have been delighted with the response to this year's Ixion Challenge, which has demonstrated to us the high standard of British businesses across many sectors.

"Hanningfield Processing Systems was an outstanding entrant, and we are pleased to give the company the £5,000 runners-up award, which can be used for business development, to help the company *survive and revive* as the recession begins to end."

James Ellis already has plans for the cash award: "The runners-up award of £5,000 is a huge amount of money to a company of our size and will make a profound impact upon the way we

work. The money will be used to implement a 'Customer Relationship Management' system, which will integrate the roles of sales, marketing and customer services. This is extremely important for us to successfully manage our expanding domestic and international operations. This will also lay the foundation for an 'Enterprise Resource Planning' system, which we can now work towards. Hence, the prize will play a significant role in both the short and long term, and promises to be an influential factor in Hanningfield's growth for years to come."