

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2010**

### **BPIF announces new Chief Executive**

The BPIF is delighted to announce that Kathy Woodward is to become the new BPIF Chief Executive. She will formally take the helm of print's leading employers' organisation at the BPIF AGM on 14 July when Michael Johnson, who has led the BPIF since September 2001, steps down.

The appointment follows a recruitment process lead by BPIF President Rupert Middleton and conducted by a panel of BPIF non-executive directors which interviewed a range of candidates, all with extensive senior management experience at both association and company levels.

Kathy, who is currently Chair of BPIF Training Limited, was chosen from the final shortlist.

#### **Announcing her selection, Rupert Middleton, BPIF President, said:**

"With all eyes on the BPIF to help shape the future of our industry, as our members seek to transform their businesses to meet the changing expectations of clients in a multi-media age, the role of BPIF Chief Executive has never been more important".

"The selection panel and I were looking for someone with an extraordinary mix of communication, influence, intellectual and leadership skills. We wanted someone with a proven track record, a firm understanding of policy matters and a passion for business. The candidate also needed a clear vision of what the BPIF needs to do to meet the demanding needs of its members and to attract more companies into membership".

"We needed a strong leader who will fight our industry's corner with Government and who has the tenacity and acumen to grow the BPIF's income streams. Kathy's drive, energy and appetite for change meant that she was, without doubt, the right person for the role".

Kathy has a proven track record of achievement both within the printing industry and in wider support services roles. She was previously Chief Executive of Foneback PLC, Group Operations Director of Astron and Development Director for BPC.

#### **Commenting on her appointment Kathy said:**

"I am absolutely delighted to have been chosen to lead the BPIF at this critical time. There are many exciting opportunities and challenges ahead of us to develop the BPIF business. I am looking forward to working with members and the very talented BPIF team to create high-quality, relevant business services that will support our eighteen hundred plus company membership in this challenging economic climate as they strive to create strong and sustainable business".

The appointment has been given a wholehearted warm endorsement by leading BPIF member company representatives.

#### **Reactions to the appointment from leading BPIF members:**

**Andrew Pindar OBE DL (Pindar Group Chairman and BPIF Vice President) said:**

“In an industry that is learning to adopt and celebrate its pivotal role in multi-channel communication, built on a bedrock of print, we’ve had the opportunity to rethink the leadership role of the BPIF, for its members and for itself as an organisation. Kathy stands out as the person to make this happen inside and out”.

**Barry Hibbert (Polestar Group Chief Executive) said:**

“This is certainly a pioneering appointment by the selection committee and an important step for the BPIF. I have known Kathy for many years and she is, without doubt, not only a successful entrepreneur but a people person and passionate about our industry. I cannot think of anyone with better credentials to take the industry forward”.

**David Holland (BGP Chief Executive/Chairman) said:**

“I am delighted at Kathy Woodward’s appointment. She is both a proven specialist and generalist within this and other industries where she has invariably been successful and has a track record of people development through an innovative and user friendly approach. I think she will be very good for this industry in her new role”.

**For more information please contact Michael Johnson, BPIF Chief Executive on 020 7915 8309.**

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**Notes to Editors:**

### **The British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF)**

The BPIF is the principal business support organisation representing the UK print, printed packaging and graphic communication industry. It is one of the country's leading trade associations. The federation strive to ensure their members' requirements come first. Through listening to their needs they have developed an unrivalled range of products and services that go well beyond those provided by a traditional trade association.

They provide the highest standard of support for printers to grow and develop healthy, sustainable and profitable businesses, aiming to provide an environment geared towards their businesses success. The BPIF offer practical, value-adding solutions for all areas of a print organisation, ranging from Health, Safety, Environmental and Quality issues; with the implementation of HR requirements; provide resolutions of technical or legal issues; as well as advice and support on marketing, sales and finance. This is all delivered by individuals and teams of highly skilled and experienced print industry specialists.

New services recently launched include BPIF Insurance Service and the BPIF Financial Alliance to add to a wide range of business support services including healthcare and pensions. They also offer a wide range of opportunities for networking both regionally and nationally, including prestigious events, special interest groups and popular short courses on a wide range of topics.

For more information on the BPIF, visit: [www.britishprint.com](http://www.britishprint.com).