Today, we are pleased to announce Accuracy International Ltd. (AI) has been named a winner of a Queen's Award for Enterprise, the United Kingdom's highest accolade for business success.

Headquartered in Portsmouth, Hampshire, AI, which produces high accuracy tactical rifles, received the award for success in International Trade. The company achieved substantial growth year on year in exports.

Accuracy International originally was formed in 1978. In 2005, it was bought out of administration by a small group of investors, including the two original designers. The newly formed company started with seven employees, and, as of April 2015, has grown to 83 employees, including nine based at a facility in Fredericksburg, Virginia, U.S.A.

Under the leadership of Directors Tom Irwin and Dave Walls, Accuracy International designs, develops and manufactures sniper rifles for military and law enforcement groups as well as civilian competition shooters in over 60 countries. Considered the world's premiere rifles, British forces have used AI rifles since 1985 and, in 2008, the Ministry of Defence re-equipped all U.K. forces with the company's L115A3 sniper rifle system.

Irwin and Walls look forward to representing the company at an award reception at Buckingham Palace in July. "We are thrilled to have won this prestigious award. As a small U.K. company committed to manufacturing our product here in Britain, we're proud that our rifles are considered the market leader and we are grateful for this recognition from the Queen," Irwin said.

The Queen's Award for Enterprise is awarded annually in three categories - international trade, innovation and sustainable development. Each category has a separate judging panel which makes a recommendation to the Prime Minister's Advisory Committee. The committee then makes a final recommendation to Her Majesty The Queen, who decides the winners.