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Royal Marines Charity's London Dinner breaks records, raising over £1m on 100th anniversary of Armistice

Commemorating 100 years since the Armistice, The Royal Marines Charity's annual London Dinner, sponsored by Patron Capital, has now raised in excess of £1m – resulting in the dinner being the largest fundraising event the charity has ever done to date.

The London Dinner at The Guildhall was compered by former Royal Marine and BBC News presenter JJ Chalmers, and featured a speech by General Sir Gordon Messenger, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, and performances by the Royal Marines Band Service. A live auction conducted by renowned auctioneer Nick Bonham, combined with a silent auction, raised a total of £385,650.

The sponsorship forms part of an ongoing partnership that has existed since 2010 between Patron Capital and The Royal Marines Charity, whose work includes supporting those injured through active service. Patron recently sponsored a record-breaking venture by Steve Sparkes, a former Royal Marine who became the first blind person to row across the Pacific. As part of the evening's proceedings, Patron MD Keith Breslauer personally gifted Steve an OrCam MyEye wearable artificial vision device that instantly and discreetly reads printed and digital text aloud – from any surface – and recognises faces, products, maps, letters and money notes, all in real time.

The dinner's auction included a bust by British sculptor Ben Dearnley of Mark Ormrod, the former Marine and triple amputee who has won several medals including two gold at the Invictus Games. Selling for £38,000, it was purchased by the Gosling Foundation and donated to the Royal Marines Museum. A Royal Marines experience in Norway sold for a staggering £130,000, while the sale of Mark Ormrod's Bremont watch, which sold last year for £25,000 and was returned to its previous owner, went under the hammer again, this time raising £30,000 but once more found itself back on Mark's wrist at the end of the evening.

Keith Breslauer, Patron Capital's Managing Director, said:

"Raising over £1m is an incredible feat and will enable The Royal Marines Charity to continue its vital work, helping those who have given so much to preserve our freedom and way of life to adjust to often life-changing disabilities and embrace new activities.

"As well as raising funds to pay for first-class prosthetics and home refurbishments for disabled use, our ongoing partnership with The Royal Marines Charity also involves business introductions, mentoring and providing work placements. It was an honour to sponsor an evening commemorating the sacrifices made by so many Royal Marines, and was particularly poignant around the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. We are thrilled to have crossed the £1m mark in funds raised from this event, with this money set to help improve the lives of Royal Marines past, present and future."

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Notes to Editors

About Patron Capital Partners

Patron represents approximately €3.4 billion of capital across several funds and related co-investments, investing in property, corporate operating entities whose value is primarily supported by property assets and distressed debt and credit related businesses.

Since it was established in 1999, Patron has invested in over 75 investments and programs involving over 65 million square feet (6 million square metres) in 16 countries, with many of these investments realised.

Investors represent a variety of sovereign wealth funds, prominent universities, major institutions, private foundations, and high net worth individuals located throughout North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. The main investment adviser to the Funds is Patron Capital Advisers LLP, which is based in London, and Patron has other offices across Europe including Barcelona, Milan and Luxembourg; the group is comprised of 77 people, including a 45-person investment team.

Further information about Patron Capital is available at www.patroncapital.com