

Chemicals Northwest 2024 Awards

On the 21st March, the team at Chemicals Northwest welcomed nearly 300 guests to the Hilton, Manchester Deansgate hotel. Yes, we liked it so much we came back for a second year on the run.

It is an honour to celebrate excellence in our vital industry and thank you to everyone who submitted an award entry. The Chemicals Northwest Awards celebrate the entire supply chain, whether companies are producers or suppliers of services or products, their commitment to the chemical industry is critical and is greatly valued. We also wanted to thank our sponsors who made judging and planning this evening an absolute pleasure.

Our host

Our host for the evening was Jimmy McGhie. Jimmy is an acclaimed stand-up comedian. A hit at Edinburgh and on the live circuit, he has been a finalist in a host of new comedy competitions including the BBC New Talent and the Perth Comedy Festival. Jimmy kept the awards running smoothly with some ad lib jokes to amuse the audience along the way.

Announcing the Winners



Sponsored by the
Chemical Industries Association (CIA)

Winner - Studley Ltd



Studley Ltd employ 300 people working with more than 50 customers each year. Their award entry described work on Hulme Hall Expansion creating additional cavities to deliver brine at required rates. The design managed the risk of injury whilst maximising environmental protection. Design included buried pipework, tie-ins to existing pipework anchor blocks, ditch crossings. Also land drainage post-construction. Studley worked to Client procedures relating to vehicles and led on engagement with the local authority and police to minimise obstructions, due to needing to keep infrastructure open throughout. 3km of stainless steel pipes were delivered and 300lb flanges met local farmland requirements and utilised wetland expertise for operating in bogged areas, successful delivery has led to further work with the client.



Steve Elliott - Chemicals Industry Association (CIA)



Sponsored by PM Group

Winner – Bitrez Ltd



Bitrez Ltd is one of the UK's leading manufacturers of specialist polymers and chemicals. Bitrez manufacture a new Curaphen range of products which are phenolic resins employed in the manufacture of specialist coatings and as a resin used in the generation of composites for light weight components. Bitrez's skilled R&D department developed a formula to reduce the formaldehyde levels. A brand-new formula and process technique was required to comply with regulatory guidelines. Extensive R&D, evaluation with trials involving cutting edge/innovative chemistry resulted in a series of Curaphen grades that were not classified as carcinogenic but exceeded the performance levels of conventional grades. Curaphen is now established as the best-selling Low FF phenolic resin on the market and due to its commercial success, the company has had to double manufacturing capacity requiring 24/7 UK production to service customers in the US and China.



Sponsored by Arcadium Lithium

Winner - INEOS Inovyn

Safety is key to the entire site at INEOS Inovyn and responsibility falls on employees and visiting contractors to play their part. INEOS introduced an Walksafe project when trip and slip incidents plateaued over a number of years. INEOS understood that our eyes absorb a huge amount of detail but our brain, overworked as we all are, chooses which parts to process and in the process overlooks elements that are familiar and might contribute to an accident. seven scenes were set up with various STF hazards



that someone might come across. Small groups were walked through the scenes and encouraged to call out what they saw. Through speaking what they saw it helped remap brain pathways encouraging fresh eyes used on each journey. Congrats to the INEOS SHE Team who in 2023 walked 900 employees and contractors through the safety training and which has already delivered a 50% reduction in incidents over the year.



Sponsored by INEOS Inovyn

Winner - Koura



Koura developed Klea 456A, a “drop-in” refrigerant which has 50% lower Global Warming Potential compared to the incumbent product on the market. Koura explained that with 200m cars still using the existing product the potential benefits are huge – they calculated it equating to the removal of 56 million cars from the roads in a year. Technically the new products is drop in and go replacement with no mechanical, oil or other changes required to the vehicle. There is no polymerisation risk and Klea 456A has already been approved by a major servicing manufacturer. Performance wise, it's equivalent to the incumbent with cooling capacity boosted by 10%. Judges were delighted that a new grade of “drop-in” refrigerant delivers a significant step in reducing the GWP of AC systems in older vehicles. Given the cost of replacing cars having options such as this is vital if we are to achieve our nations environmental targets.



Sponsored by Koura

Winner Croda Europe Ltd



Croda Europe's winning entry focussed on production records switching from hard copy batch processing records to e-batch card software covering two sites. The switch considerably improved traceability and reproducibility and the quality and accuracy of available data. The new system permits the operations team to follow the entire production process allowing bottlenecks to be avoided and providing a better understanding of the manufacturing sequence. Time is saved on investigations and the simplified data leads to clearer decision making. Deliverables include the release time reduced by 60%, batch time cycle reduced by 20%. Clearing training requirements and reduced administration time. E-batchcard is connected to SAP system ensuring the whole company benefits from data availability and stock levels.



Sponsored by IKM Consulting Ltd

Winner - John Hogg Technical Solutions

John Hogg Technical Solutions are a market leader in fuel marking technology and solvent dye manufacturing. 2023 was a particularly good year for the company. Revenue has increased by 18% and net margin by 43% over 2022. 80% of sales exported into 70 global countries. 2024 is destined



to take the company even further with revenue predicted to double over the previous year. John Hogg successfully designed, manufactured and shipped millions of litres of 20 different products into EU markets to ensure the sector remained compliant. A new government contract in Asia delivered 65% in revenue growth on one product line. Congratulations John Hogg.



Sponsored by Business of Science Ltd

Winner AM Technology



AM Technology is an innovator in continuous chemical reactor technology. In 2023 AM Technology collaborated with a South African research institute to develop a reactor demonstration lab which can be configured to handle a range of chemical processes at KG scale. Project should help onshore pharmaceutical production. AM Technology will provide technical support till 2028 as part of the contract. The single South African projects will boost AM Technology revenue by 25%. Continuous manufacture demands significantly less energy than and delivers less waste than traditional methods, particularly relevant in South Africa where power outages remain common. The demonstration lab will be operational later in 2024.



Sponsored by SRG

Winner - Rhys Kelly, M&I Materials Limited



Rhys joined M&I Materials 15 months ago as a lab technician supporting two distinct aspects of the business. Within a year Rhys was promoted to Process Technologist. Rhys is well thought of by his peers and has made an instant impact on the business on a number of levels. Rhys has excellent skills engaging with technical professionals and manufacturing staff to a level not often expected from someone so young. The judges were impressed with Rhys's in-built care and concern for those around him which had helped the company to improve safety in critical areas.



Sponsored by SLR

Winner - PM Group



The Judges were delighted to see PM Group focus on both social and environmental strategies in efforts to meet their obligations. PM adopted Environmental Social Governance framework and included D&I as part of holistic approach. Sustainability tool used on all projects. Best practise at work has led to best practise at home and in friendship groups focussing on fairness and wellbeing and inclusivity for LGBTQ+. PM Group are celebrating 50 years in business with a 50 Good Deeds programme which included world environment day, volunteering, education and STEM workshops, fundraising and charity and children's hospital activity. A women's week delivered demonstrable results. PM were active in gender diversity, ethical sourcing, allyship and disability. Every box was ticked!



Sponsored by Chemicals Northwest

Winner - IKM Consulting Ltd



IKM have offices in Grangemouth and Runcorn providing civil, structural and environmental consultancy. IKM have a particular offering in asset lifecycle solutions. Since opening the Runcorn facility in 2022 IKM have quickly assembled a very impressive list of NW clients. The North West will contribute 10% of company turnover by end-2024. IKM have accessed new customers in a range of innovative ways, they have run a series of technical seminars including on blast resistant building design and are now proposing running similar in businesses. IKM have supported a client pursuing green hydrogen as a fuel source and contributed to FEED and master planning leading to reduced emissions. The company run a mentoring program for graduate level engineers and have achieved Gold certification in Investors in People and Investor in Young People. Judges wished them every success.



Sponsored by Chemicals Northwest

Winner - James Robinson Speciality Ingredients (JRSI) & The University of Manchester

James Robinson Speciality Ingredients (JRSI) are a small research-lead company that design, manufacture and sell high performing organic materials. JRSI we keen to develop understanding of thermally activated delayed fluorescence (TADF) materials for use in OLED devices. JRSI worked with professors at University of Manchester on a joint project, knowing their own research limitations. JRSI's knowledge of TADF materials went beyond academic research but into new scalable routes to TADF species. JRSI also generate their own proprietary range of TADF materials that have the potential to be utilised in next generation oled displays. Knowledge Transfer Partnership funding helped recruit specialist staff and subsequently support from the University of Manchester. An Academic paper has been produced raising JRSI's profile in this area.



With thanks to our award sponsors



Sponsor of the Health and Safety Award 2024

Arcadium Lithium is a leading global lithium chemicals producer, created on January 4, 2024 as a result of the successful merger of equals between Livent and Allkem. With roughly U.S. \$1.9 billion of combined total revenue in 2022 and a global team of more than 2,600 employees, we are one of the largest integrated producers of lithium chemicals in the world. We are committed to safely and responsibly harnessing the power of lithium to improve people's lives and accelerate the transition to a clean energy future.

Find out more here <https://arcadiumlithium.com/>



2024 Drinks Reception Sponsor

AXIOM are an award-winning, multi-disciplined engineering consultancy providing asset management solutions with our services uniquely positioned to support our clients to effectively manage their plant at every stage in their assets' life cycle maximising assets performance and minimising risk.

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Sponsor of the Innovation Award 2024

Since 2016 the Business of Science Conference has been bringing together the brightest minds from across the science and innovation ecosystem for a day of exchanging invaluable insights and building relationships.

The conference sees business leaders, industrialists, academics, and policymakers explore the latest opportunities and challenges in the business of science. We bring industry professionals together with school students to help nurture scientific ideas that could become the innovations of tomorrow. **Find out more here - <https://www.businessofscience.co.uk/>**



Sponsor of the Engineering Firm of the Year Award 2024

The Chemical Industries Association is the organisation representing and advising chemical and pharmaceutical companies located across the UK.

Find out more here - <https://www.cia.org.uk/>



Sponsor of the Partnership and Supplier Awards 2024

Chemicals Northwest is the industry-led, chemical cluster support organisation for the North West and surrounding areas chemical sector, the largest in the UK. We are funded by our members and owned and supported by the Chemical Industries Association.

We are a membership organisation that supports and promotes the interests and activities of the chemistry-using industries. **Find out more here - <https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/>**



Headline sponsor for the Chemicals Northwest 2024 Awards

CHEMUK will return on the 15th & 16th May 2024 running in Hall 1 at the NEC, Birmingham and Chemicals Northwest are delighted to be a headline partner for this event.

The expo will present 500+ specialist exhibitors and 150+ expert speakers split between three major show zones:

- * Chemical Industries Supply Chain
- * Chemical, Process & Plant Engineering
- * CHEMLAB – Laboratory & Innovation
- * NEW FOR 2024: Chemical, Process & Plant Safety

Find out more here - www.chemicalukexpo.com



Sponsor of the International Trade Award 2024

IKM Consulting is an award-winning civil, structural, and environmental consultancy. Committed to managing client risk and facilitating strategic decision-making, our multidisciplinary teams have expertise in bulk fuel storage, chemical manufacturing, and transmission terminals. With offices in Grangemouth and Runcorn, we specialise in asset integrity, containment, infrastructure design, occupied building strategies, environmental risk assessments, and COMAH compliance. We deliver unparalleled value and expertise to every client and work to deliver every project with distinction. **Find out more here - <https://www.ikmconsulting.co.uk/>**



Sponsor of the Sustainability Award 2024

A premier chemical company, INEOS Inovyn is at the heart of Europe's chemical industry. Our products find use in almost every aspect of modern society, keeping people housed, healthy and connected. INEOS Inovyn is Europe's leading producer of vinyls and in the top three worldwide. With an annual turnover of €4.5 billion, INEOS Inovyn has circa 4,200 employees at 15 chemical manufacturing, sales and marketing sites in 8 countries across Europe.

Find out more here <https://www.inovyn.com/>



Fluor & Energy
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Koura
An Orbia business.

Sponsor of the Operational Excellence Award 2024

Orbia's Fluor & Energy Materials business Koura is a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of fluoroproducts that play a fundamental role in enhancing everyday lives. Orbia Koura's products are used in numerous applications including electric vehicles, indoor climate management, food and medicine refrigeration and treating respiratory conditions.

Find out more here - <https://www.kouraglobal.com/>

MannTek

Sponsor of the 2024 Awards Dinner brochure

With experience of more than one million couplings delivered over 25 years, MannTek decided to set a new standard for couplings. With Design 2.0, the new generation of our Couplings, we present major improvements to both flow performance and user experience. Our mission is clear: to design the very best couplings in the world.

Find out more here - <https://www.manntek.se/>



Sponsor of the Manufacturing Company of the Year Award 2024

PM Group is an employee owned, international project delivery company operating across Europe, the USA and Asia. We have a 50+ year track record in project management, process design, process safety, facility design and construction management for leading multinational companies. **Find out more here - <https://www.pmgroupproject.com/>**



Sponsor of the Corporate Social Responsibility Award 2024

Global leaders in sustainability solutions: providing clients with strategic advice and on-the-ground technical support to tackle some of the world's most complex sustainability challenges. We have a collaborative and entrepreneurial culture and have recently been recognised as a "leader" in climate change consulting by the independent research firm Verdantix. **Find out more here - <https://www.slrconsulting.com/>**



Sponsor of the Young Talent Award 2024

SRG are industry leaders in Science, Engineering and Clinical Recruitment. We empower individuals and businesses to power the future of STEM. With true specialist knowledge, we support a full spectrum of technical roles and talent solutions across the whole product life cycle, from R&D, through analysis, manufacturing, and engineering to market access. **Find out more here - <https://www.srgtalent.com/>**

