

The Winners...

Health and Safety Award, sponsored by Livent

For nearly eight decades, Livent has partnered with its customers to safely and sustainably use lithium to power the world. Livent is one of only a small number of companies with the capability, reputation and know-how to produce high-quality lithium compounds that are helping meet the growing demand for lithium. livent.com



WINNER – Studley Engineering & Electrical Limited

The judging panel recognised that Studley Engineering did not simply ‘talk the talk’ on health and safety best practice but literally followed their own best practice guidance to the letter. The Health, Safety and Environment Management Team has representation from all levels within the business. These meetings prompted the development of enhanced Mental Health and Wellbeing procedures and Toolbox talks. Best practise developed for customer industries had been adopted internally. Studley now offer a comprehensive external independent support service to tackle mental health issues. The drive and commitment from Studley’s Health, Safety and Environment Management Team delivered 451,115 hours without a reportable incident with accidents down 47% on 2020. studleyltd.com

Sustainability Award, sponsored by INOVYN

INOVYN is a vinyls producer that ranks among the top three worldwide. With an annual turnover in excess of €3.5 billion. INOVYN has more than 4,300 employees and manufacturing, sales and marketing operations in eight countries across Europe. Annual production volumes are in excess of 40 million tonnes. inovyn.com

WINNER – Anacarda Ltd

Anacarda are a niche speciality polymer resin supplier but their sustainability credentials and ambition is of the highest quality. The judging panel agreed that despite being more expensive than existing materials, the product fully demonstrated significant value over its competitors. The product, in delivering a faster cure rate, achieves reduced downtime in marine applications critical for operations, and is formulated to be both forgiving and tolerant in differing climatic conditions. The panel welcomed the cutting-edge chemistry used to develop caramine. What clinched the award was that the feedstock, cardanol, is produced from the shell of the cashew nut. What is more sustainable than that? anacarda.com



Operational Excellence Award, sponsored by Koura

Koura is the global leader in the fluoroproducts that play a fundamental role in enhancing everyday lives, in a vast range of applications, including construction, batteries, polymers, refrigerants, medical devices and active pharmaceutical ingredients, among others. Koura provide solutions for a variety of markets through a wide range of product applications; metspar,

acidspar, hydrofluoric acid, anhydrite, aluminium trifluoride, refrigerants, medical propellants, energy storage and technical propellants. kouraglobal.com

WINNER – Livent

2021 was a challenging year for many member companies. The challenge presented to Livent was to achieve record production levels and simultaneously to maintain employee engagement during a global pandemic. The continued health and safety of all employees and the resident contractor workforce was prioritised. The execution control system was identified as a potential weak spot forcing Livent to consider an upgrade of the system. What Livent did was ensure the relevant workforce were involved from the outset and throughout the process.

Staff working remotely presented additional complexities to the exercise, however overcoming this challenge helped to tie the workforce to a fully “owned” solution. An expert facilitator was engaged to advise colleagues on working collaboratively to delivering solutions. Teams were incentivised to solve matters rather than report problems. Daily meetings were consequently shorter and more efficient. Fundamentally the project was about Livent’s people who embraced the need for change and had the tenacity to implement it for the benefit of all. livent.com



International Trade Award, supported by Department for International Trade

The UK’s Department for International Trade is the specialist government department that secures UK and global prosperity by promoting international trade and investment, and championing free trade. DIT helps UK-based companies access overseas markets to achieve their export goals and overseas firms in bringing high-level, sustainable investment to the UK. gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade

WINNER – Libra Speciality Chemicals

In the absence of not being able to meet directly with customers, “virtual” methods of customer engagement were expanded. The company adapted their business model working with partners to provide broader support including technical, regulatory, market knowledge and logistical support.

The end of the Brexit transition period itself presented additional complications. Despite raw material shortages lasting throughout 2021, Libra reported an impressive output of 9,029MT to international territories, an increase of 10% over what was achieved the year before.

Lockdowns and restrictions triggered a series of force majeure that presented production problems for Libra and for their customers. Thanks to the deep relationships the team had developed, solutions were found, new sources of supply identified and downtime averted. This all helped the company to deliver a customer retention rate of over 90%. Libra look forward to exploring new markets in 2022 but will not forget the lessons learnt during the pandemic. librachem.co.uk

