

### Innovation Award, sponsored by SLR Consulting

SLR is a global leader in environmental and advisory solutions, with a team of 1,800+ talented professionals delivering advice and support from a network of offices in Europe, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and Africa. We help businesses get the most from their assets by developing people, plant and management processes to drive sustainable improvements in safety, environmental protection and productivity. [slrconsulting.com](http://slrconsulting.com)

#### WINNER – Holiferm

Holiferm aim to accelerate the transition of chemical manufacturing companies to a circular economy through producing non-fossil based fermentation derived ingredients for industrial and consumer cleaning products. Holiferm has transformed the existing biosurfactant and lipid production process by taking traditional and expensive batch fermentation and developing a commercially viable, continuous manufacturing process to deliver green products to the mass market at both a competitive volume and price point. The patented gravity step separation fermentation method of producing sophorolipids was produced by Ben Dolman (CEO) at the University of Manchester. We wish them every success with their first commercial plant, opening early 2023. [holiferm.com](http://holiferm.com)



**Highly commended – Otto Simon** *Hydrogen, as this industry knows better than any, burns without producing any carbon and if it can be produced in a sustainable manner it can provide a significant contribution in our national effort to reach NetZero. Working alongside private sector and government partners, Otto Simon provided the design, construction and commissioning services to facilitate the innovative hydrogen trials in August 2021 at NSG Pilkington Glass's Greengate site. Otto Simon evaluated the results from using pure hydrogen vs hydrogen blended with natural gas. The company integrated the pilot plant onto the 1970's built existing infrastructure. The trial was successful and architectural glass was produced, and critically the technology was proven. We wish Otto Simon success as they take that experience forward to other industry applications and projects.* [ottosimon.co.uk](http://ottosimon.co.uk)



### Young Talent in the Chemical Industry Award, sponsored by SRG

As a global STEM network with over thirty years of experience, SRG apply their specialist knowledge and expertise to a full spectrum of roles and talent solutions. They mirror the full product life cycle across the pharmaceutical, biotech, medtech, chemicals, FMCG and food and drink industries within the scientific, clinical and engineering disciplines. Their success comes from talent and connections, that's why they put people first. Their focus is on building lasting relationships with clients and candidates to help them reach their potential. [srgtalent.com](http://srgtalent.com)

#### WINNER – Adam Earnshaw, Ingevity

Adam joined Ingevity as an apprentice in 2017, successfully completing a BSc (Hons) degree in Professional Management Practice through the apprenticeship. Adam secured a first class honours degree. As a Supply Chain Planner Adam was responsible for planning two main manufacturing plants. In January 2022, the thermoplastic plant achieved a record number of dispatches to customers and Adam is responsible for planning the production of this plant. Not satisfied with that, Adam accepted a chance to review global warehouse distribution in the US and Asia. When implemented, that review was successful in reducing inventory in the warehouse leading to a saving of over \$3million with no impact to customer service levels. Adam has now shifted to reviewing the business planning system to improve Sales and Operations Planning process for the business.



### Charity of the Year, sponsored by Valtris

Valtris Speciality Chemicals, headquartered in Independence, OH, is a leading manufacturer of speciality chemicals, primarily used as additives in the production and processing of plastics, and chemical precursors used in coatings, flavour and fragrance, personal care and pharmaceutical application. Operating nine facilities globally, including Eccles in Manchester, Valtris offers an unmatched range of complimentary products for the specific needs of a diverse customer base. [valtris.com](http://valtris.com)



#### WINNER – Catalyst Science Discovery Centre

During 2021, Catalyst's aim was to build confidence and science capital amongst local parents and carers, bringing an appreciation, and not a fear, of science into local homes. The goal was to inject STEM into leisure time and to deliver science as a fun activity rather than an academic chore. The success of the project was dependent on breaking down the perception that science capital was not readily available in every home, Catalyst developed family science boxes designed around the themes of 'bedtime, bath time and build it' to empower parents and entire families to discover that science was indeed for them. Catalyst worked with leading community support partners to deliver the science boxes into deserving

homes and used social media and the website to continually engage throughout the process. The concept helped ensure that the Catalyst Museum remained relevant during the various 2021 lockdowns. [catalyst.org.uk](http://catalyst.org.uk)

### Supplier to the Chemical Industry Award, sponsored by Otto Simon

Otto Simon is a process-led engineering consultant and project delivery organisation with more than 150 years of experience. Working with clients in the North West and across the UK, Otto Simon provides services to all stages of project development for emergent technologies, chemical processing plants and manufacturing facilities. [ottosimon.co.uk](http://ottosimon.co.uk)

#### WINNER – Axiom Engineering Associates

The covid pandemic encouraged Axiom to expand operations in the North West. An office in Runcorn was critical to service NW based companies. Investment into staffing and Axiom's own data management asset lifecycle tool, the Asset Management Database, was vital in advising clients on key safety precautions. Plant degradation cannot ever be overlooked but large scale maintenance shutdowns were incredibly difficult to deliver because of covid and social distancing requirements.

Companies turned to Axiom for a robust assessment of risk. Axiom's AMD was critical in supporting decisions to safely postpone and reschedule inspections, which was critical in keeping many sites operational. Axiom is about its people as well as technology. Two new permanent roles created in the NW

have enhanced local support and the company predict graduate and apprentice roles soon. Ambitious for growth in 2022, the launch of the Process Safety service, fully integrated into the company's core disciplines and supported by AMD, will deliver a complete wraparound service to clients. [axiomengineeringassociates.com](http://axiomengineeringassociates.com)

