

Chemicals Northwest 2022 Awards - Chemicals Northwest were delighted to receive an excellent number of entries for the 2022 awards, in volume and in quality. The bids celebrated the achievements of dynamic businesses operating in the largest regional chemicals cluster in the UK. It was with a huge amount of pleasure that we were able to hold a live event on 24 March rather than repeat the virtual event we were forced to hold in 2021.

The Awards evening itself, at The Point, Lancashire County Cricket Club, was enjoyed by all, recognising worthy winners from each category, celebrating their success and critically once again surrounded by colleagues and contemporaries. It was a celebration but keynote speaker Steve Elliott, CEO of the Chemical Industries Association recognised the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

With thanks to our sponsors for the evening, without whom the event wouldn't be possible.

Our headline sponsor, ChemUK 2022

CHEMUK 2022 will return on the 11th & 12th May in Hall 1 at the NEC, Birmingham. The expo will present 350+ specialist exhibitors split between two major shows, The Chemical Industries Supply Chain Show and The Chemical, Process & Plant Engineering Show. The CHEMUK 2022 speaker programme will present 100 speakers over 4 stages, with a combined 40+ hrs of presentation and panel sessions, providing vital market intelligence, tech insight, best practice, case studies, solutions updates and more. <http://www.chemicalukexpo.com>



Our drinks reception sponsor, Axiom Engineering Associates

Axiom Engineering Associates is a multi-disciplined asset management solutions provider, operating across a range of industry sectors in the UK including the Chemical industry. Uniquely positioned using our Materials, Mechanical and UKAS-accredited Inspection Services, we support our clients to effectively manage their plant at every stage of their assets' lifecycle. www.axiomengineeringassociates.com



Our programme sponsor, MannTek

Mann-Tek are the world's leading producers of dry disconnect and safety breakaway couplings. They manufacture in a wide range of special materials to suit almost any chemical transferred by sea, road or rail today. Their couplings are made to the highest possible standard and are recognised around the globe as 'best in class'. www.manntek.se



Our host for the event was Sameena Ali-Khan

More than qualified for the job, Sameena anchors national bulletins for ITV at weekends, and throughout the week on Central Tonight in the Midlands, covering a wide range of stories across daily news and documentaries. After studying Physiology and Chemistry, Sameena was drawn to journalism. After working on radio in Manchester she first appeared on air on BBC Radio Lancashire. She remained with the BBC, going back to Manchester and GMR before stints on the BBC Asian Network, BBC West Midlands and BBC London, as well as Radio 5Live. On TV, Sameena presented and reported for Northwest Today, Inside Out, and Midlands Today before moving to ITV. Sameena has also interviewed Prince Philip.



Engineering Firm of the Year, sponsored by CIA

The Chemical Industries Association (CIA) represents chemical and pharmaceutical companies across the UK. Their activities are split between influencing the policy agenda, sharing best practice, and the provision of advice and services to their members. They take the issues that matter to their members and campaign to ensure that industry operates safely, profitably and with due care for the interests of future generations. cia.org.uk



WINNER – Studley Engineering & Electrical Limited

Studley were the principal contractor on TATA's Winnington project which involved building a new carbon capture plant. The carbon capture unit takes weak exhaust gas and captures the CO2 using advanced amine technology. 100% of the CO2 is liquified and purified before being stored in CO2 tanks onsite. Pure CO2 is vaporised and piped back to the sodium bicarbonate plant and used as a raw material. The absorber column itself is 50m high. The plant recovers 115t/day of CO2 which would otherwise be emitted to the atmosphere, equivalent to 22,000 cars.

The project which was completed October 2020 - November 2021, with regular covid testing of all site personnel, and reaching 100,000 hours without a lost time incident. Now up and running it is the UK's largest carbon capture project, the owner hopes it will pave the way for further applications of the technology. studleyltd.com

Manufacturing Company of the Year, sponsored by Klinger

Klinger is the world's leading developer and manufacturer of quality sealing products for the oil and gas, petrochemical, aerospace and defence, utilities, pharmaceuticals and chemical industries. Klinger's customers include major global enterprises who demand reliability enabling Klinger to retain its status as industry leader. KLINGER's manufacturing and distribution network is spread across the UK with extensive stocks held in its Runcorn facility. klinger.co.uk

WINNER – Libra Speciality Chemicals

During extraordinarily challenging times, the Libra team have continued to achieve record manufacturing output figures. Production increased +15% year on year and impressively on a previous record year. Over the last four years, production has increased by 65%. During that period new plant investment has facilitated a capacity increase. A whole company effort was required to ensure that new customers were identified and that the import of raw materials would continue to match demand. Port pressures, raw material shortages and haulier availability all had to be managed.

The newly invested betaine plants have almost zero waste streams and the right first-time level exceeds 95%. Libra has delivered an excellent site safety record. Further site investment included a new 850,000 litre bulk tank farm and a new £4m Mio 20,000 tpa novel "green" design membrane system for producing low salt betaine. Investment secured Libra's status of possessing the largest storage capacity in the UK. In the future business growth will be focused on sustainable UK growth which is positive and warmly welcomed. librachem.co.uk

