

Innovation Awards/2024

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Innovation Awards/2024

Welcome to The Innovation Awards

The Innovation Awards recognise, celebrate and reward the companies and organisations dedicated to innovation. Since its inaugural ceremony in 2021, The Innovation Awards has sold out every year. In 2024, we received a record-breaking number of nominations, with **tens of thousands voting** for their favourite innovators.

If you want to engage with businesses, innovators and thought leaders, then sponsoring the Innovation Awards 2025 is a great opportunity. Please contact Richard Fallon from the Technology Supply Chain on **0121 232 8630** for more information.

What is the Technology Supply Chain?

The Technology Supply Chain (TSC) is the organisation behind the Innovation Awards. The TSC is a membership organisation for Midlands-based companies. We work with our members co-operatively to deliver growth. We connect you with a wealth of innovation and growth opportunities, including innovation support, funding and grants, as well as new customers and suppliers.

The TSC attracts members from all industries. About 70% of our members are in the manufacturing, engineering, technology and health tech sectors.

You are invited to find the right opportunities, fully funded support and grants for your business by emailing Dr. Richard Fallon at richard@technologysupplychain.co.uk or call him on **0121 232 8630**.

Technology Supply Chain

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Message from the Directors



Dr Richard Fallon
TSC Director

On behalf of the Technology Supply Chain, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the fourth Innovation Awards. We had our most competitive year to date with more entries and voters than ever before.

Our judges were impressed by the exceptionally high quality of all the finalists with many remarking that they had no idea such innovative and transformative work was going on.

The Innovation Awards were created to recognise, celebrate and reward the companies, individuals and organisations dedicated to innovation. We are thrilled that the Awards are inspiring others as evidenced by the increasing number of entries and the impressive year-on-year growth of our membership.

We have added several Awards this year to recognise the innovative work that is going on in the Health Tech, Construction, Media, Net Zero and Defence spaces. Paul, Amy and I are always impressed by the range of entries and it was great to see these areas recognised.

We are also delighted to have the Army Benevolent Fund as our charity of choice.

Welcome to the Innovation Awards 2024 and enjoy your evening!



Prof. Paul Cadman
TSC Director

The Innovation Awards celebrate the remarkable achievements of individuals and organisations that are shaping the future. These awards stand as a testament to the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that drives progress in the Midlands, the UK and across the world.

We gather tonight not just to recognise success but to reflect on the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities that come with being at the forefront of technological advancement.

As we look around the world, the UK stands tall as a global leader in innovation. Whether in manufacturing, healthcare, technology, artificial intelligence, or sustainability, UK-based companies and projects continue to make significant contributions to global progress.

For example, the rise of clean energy solutions pioneered by British companies that are revolutionising how we think about power. Our ability to compete on a global stage is a testament to our relentless pursuit of innovation and our unwavering commitment to shaping a better, more connected world.

It's truly inspiring to witness the remarkable progress unfolding across the Midlands and throughout the UK. Few individuals fully appreciate the incredible achievements happening daily in the region.

What stands out is the way local companies and organisations are coming together to support one another. Engineering and technology firms in the Midlands have excelled in tackling complex challenges. Our world-class universities are pivotal in helping businesses improve energy efficiency, automate processes, and enhance productivity.

The West Midlands and the UK have a proud heritage of innovation. I am thrilled that the Innovation Awards continue to showcase the incredible achievements within our community.



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Your Host: Phil Upton

Phil's warm personality, quick wit, and genuine connection to the Midlands have made him a cherished figure in the region. As the voice behind BBC CWR's breakfast show, he starts the day for tens of thousands of listeners, blending charisma and professionalism to create an authentic connection with his audience.

Phil has an innate understanding of the Midlands and its people, a quality that shines through in every broadcast. His show highlights local news, events, and stories that matter to the community, fostering a strong sense of connection and engagement. By spotlighting what's important to the region, Phil ensures his listeners feel not just informed, but truly understood and valued.

Regularly inviting local community members, organisations, and subject-matter experts to join him on-air, Phil facilitates insightful discussions across a range of topics. This approach not only amplifies local voices but also adds a rich diversity to his show's content, keeping it fresh and relevant.

Striking the right balance between entertainment and information, Phil's morning show is a lively mix of humour, engaging conversations, and a wide variety of music. His sharp wit and sense of humour are a hit with his listeners, adding a light-hearted element that helps ease the intensity of the morning rush.

Phil's ability to engage and connect makes him the ideal host for the Innovation Awards. He has been at the helm of all our past ceremonies, and we look forward to his continued involvement in the years to come.



You are an innovator.

Does your business messaging match up?

Whoever your audience is and whatever you're trying to communicate – whether you want to inform, persuade, educate or entertain – rich-media and interactivity will get your content noticed.





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Become Part of the Technology Supply Chain

The Technology Supply Chain (TSC) was established as a membership organisation to connect companies with **innovation and growth opportunities**. We connect you to new opportunities, innovation support, and grants to help you reduce costs, improve productivity and develop new products.

The TSC is a Community Interest Company passionate about supporting innovation in the Midlands and the UK. Our vision is to create an innovation-led golden age for the Midlands and the UK. Our mission is to help our members to **innovate, grow and prosper**.

The TSC has grown rapidly since 2019 to over 4,500 members through exciting events and word of mouth. We have two levels of membership available to help businesses within the Midlands:

Annual membership

This membership includes **connecting you with the right support, grants and growth opportunities for your business**. We will also review your grant applications.

Membership includes free access to all our live workshops, conferences, briefings and members-only networking events. We will proactively support the growth of your business on a one-to-one basis.

This costs just £500 per annum.

Executive Membership

This package is for companies that want to take advantage of **all the available funding and support, connect with other businesses, and boost their profile**.

In addition to the benefits of annual membership, you will get carefully selected business introductions and access to exclusive dinners. You will be invited to speak at events, exhibit for free at our conferences and briefings and be profiled in our newsletter each quarter.

This costs £1,800 per annum.

"Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak yesterday. Your events are always great fun as well as imparting serious messages about all things manufacturing and business. You bring your amazing positive energy and vibe to these events too and it's infectious. I enjoyed the conference and it was great to catch up with old friends and meet new contacts."

Dr Denise Taylor, Wylde Connections

The TSC offers Partner and Patron packages to larger, established companies that want to support our members and mission by providing them with the insights, tools and support they need to innovate and grow. **Please contact us for further information.**



You are invited to take your next step at <https://www.technologysupplychain.co.uk/>
or by contacting Dr. Richard Fallon at richard@technologysupplychain.co.uk
or on 0121 232 8630.



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The region's only independent B2B glossy magazine for and about the city's business community.

Birmingham Business champions the great business organisations of the region and the people behind them.

Birmingham Business magazine and sister company Birmingham Business TV are proud to sponsor **The Innovation Awards 2024.**



editor@birminghambiz.co.uk

Awards Finalists

Manufacturing Innovator of the Year

- Birmingham Case Makers
- Clarkeprint
- Hockley Mint
- OLPRO
- Wera Tools

Engineering Innovator of the Year

- Advanced Innovative Engineering
- Brown and Holmes
- Rockabill Marine Design
- Ryse 3D
- Whiteley Brooks Engineering

Sustainability Innovator of the Year

- Beeswift
- Grease Guardian
- Rentokil Initial
- Ruby Cup
- Unity Trust Bank

Net Zero Innovator of the Year

- Alucast
- ASC Water & Energy
- Erwin Hymer Centre
- IVY TECH
- Bioscope

Construction Innovator of the Year

- Build Prompt
- Cordia UK
- ProBuild360
- SMART Balustrades
- XYZ Reality

Defence Innovator of the Year

- CyberQ Group
- Intercity
- METCLOUD
- Origin8tive
- Unmanned Air Veterans

Tech Innovator of the Year

- Culture15
- D/Gauge
- Flink!
- Graide
- Intercity

Health Tech Innovator of the Year

- Aston Vision Sciences
- Black Space Technology
- Forge Genetics
- InoCardia
- St James Clinics

Media Innovator of the Year

- 59A
- BlackRook Academy
- Cucumber PR
- Lynchpin Media
- NarrativeWorx

New Innovation of the Year

- Electrogenos
- Flux Aviation
- iBiotech
- MESOX
- Veritie

Female Innovator of the Year

- Adrienne Houston
- Dee Kundi
- IfeOluwa Oyatokun
- Joanna Birch
- Kirsty Davies-Chinnock

Male Innovator of the Year

- Fraser Neill
- Jonathon Nimmons
- Michael Boxwell
- Nick Conn
- Tom Haworth

Young Innovator of the Year

- Chapa Bandara
- Harry Conway
- Helene Ntuadi
- Mitchell Barnes
- Tani Dulay

Manufacturing Innovation Champion

- Coventry University
- In-Comm Training
- Made Smarter
- MSC Business Services
- Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG)

Technology Innovation Champion

- CBIT Venture Builder Centre
- Electric Revolution Skills Hub (ERS Hub)
- CyberQ Group
- School of Code
- STEAMhouse

Growth Innovation Champion

- Alzheimer's Society Innovation Team
- Aston University
- Crowe UK
- Midven
- Sustainability West Midlands

Innovation Thought Leader | Organisation

- Advanced Research Clusters (ARC)
- Circular Economy Innovation Communities (CEIC)
- FundingHero
- West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster
- West Midlands Innovation Accelerator

Innovation Thought Leader | Individual

- Ikenna Umeh
- Mark Swift
- Matt Beveridge
- Nathan Coyle
- Pamela Aculey

Manufacturing Innovator of the Year

Manufacturing is vital to the UK economy. As of July 2024, the UK's manufacturing output was an impressive £217 billion. This award celebrates the exceptional companies that have revolutionised the manufacturing sector through innovative practices and technologies. By pushing the boundaries, these innovators not only drive economic growth but also set new standards for excellence, inspiring others to embrace change and pursue continuous improvement.



Birmingham Case Makers

Our aim is simple – to produce the very best quality handmade 100% British manufactured luxury presentation cases and display ware.

Our service is proactive, responsive and innovative, being our customers partner in the pursuit of excellence in quality, style and design.

We are constantly innovating our design and production, while staying true to our ethos - combining the very best of traditional craft skills with the efficiency, consistency and accuracy of digital manufacturing.

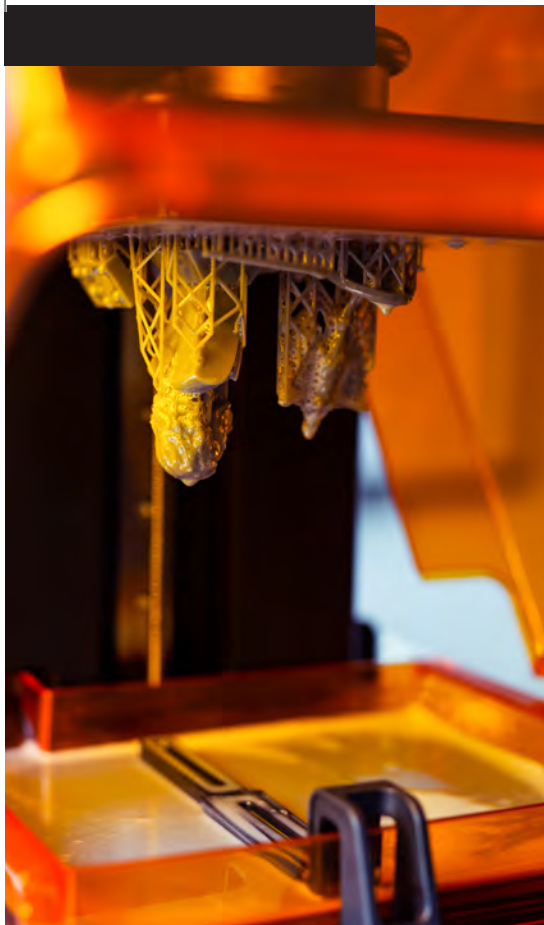
A meeting of our traditional Yin and digital Yang.



Clarkeprint

Clarkeprint crafts printed communications, from ink on paper such as brochures and stationery, to large format graphics and signage, to garment printing; and delivers them through personal service, e-commerce management, storage and distribution and mailings.





HOCKLEY MINT

HONEST BRITISH CRAFTSMANSHIP

Hockley Mint

Hockley Mint, a fine jewellery manufacturer in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter, is embarking on a digital transformation to enhance transparency, efficiency, and customer satisfaction. Key innovations include a Smart Factory with CNC machines and production tracking systems, Power BI dashboards for real-time insights, and a new customer website to streamline order processing. These changes aim to improve decision-making, operational efficiency, and production accuracy, while elevating the overall customer experience.



Wera Tools

The term 'Tool Rebel' came up when Wera surveyed its customers. Many described Wera team members as 'Tool Rebels', because they re-invent screw-driving tools and develop such incredible (almost insurgent, rebellious) solutions to problems often thought unsolvable.

Tool Rebels are people who aren't afraid to challenge existing standards. Those who are driven to make lives easier, safer, and full of joy.

Tool Rebel fever is spreading across the globe. Customers and end users on all continents identify as members of the Tool Rebel gang.



OLPRO

At OLPRO, our passionate team of outdoor experts is dedicated to creating innovative, high-quality products that transform outdoor leisure. We believe camping and campervan gear shouldn't be dull, so our bright, bold designs are made to stand out. Using cutting-edge technology and materials, we offer a wide range of industry-leading products, from award-winning tents and awnings to outdoor furniture, melamine tableware, and accessories. Our unique designs and top-quality gear are changing the way people experience the great outdoors.

Engineering Innovator of the Year

The Midlands and the UK have been the home of many pioneering engineers including Matthew Boulton, James Watt, Robert Stephenson, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and John Logie Baird. This award celebrates organisations reshaping the engineering landscape through creativity, aiming to inspire future generations to drive progress and innovation.



Advanced Innovative Engineering

Advanced Innovative Engineering (AIE) specialises in designing, developing, and manufacturing high-performance rotary engine power solutions for aerospace, automotive, and industrial applications. AIE delivers compact, efficient engines that redefine precision and performance by leveraging advanced software analysis tools, intelligent automation, and a strong portfolio of innovative patents. AIE is committed to pushing technological boundaries and providing sustainable and reliable power solutions for the future. As a leader in rotary engine technology, AIE continues to set new standards in power solution engineering.



Brown and Holmes

For 85 years Brown & Holmes have occupied an enviable position as the UK's leading provider of pioneering, world-class precision workholding and engineering expertise to a variety of customers across the nuclear, aerospace, medical, defence, machine tool, automotive, and power generation sectors from their Midlands based sites.

Our innovative Design and Manufacture solutions are conceived to consistently improve the quality of our customer's products and increase productivity, ensuring they remain competitive in an ever-changing global market.





Rockabill Marine Design

Rockabill Marine Design blends industry-leading knowledge with expert innovation to create a smarter approach to marine engineering and ship design. Led by Ruairi Grimes, RMD has experienced exceptional growth since its inception in 2022. RMD's innovative designs have made a notable impact on multiple sectors including aquaculture, autonomous vessels, and offshore wind. RMD drives excellence through its unique, iterative design process. By balancing creativity with rigorous technical procedure, from concept to build, we enable every client to achieve their objectives.



Ryse 3D

RYSE3D is a leading Production 3D printing company, with expertise in the automotive sector, contributing to over 17 hyper-car programs. Growing 100% year-on-year over seven years since our inception, we aim to be the world leader in production 3D printing and 3D printed tooling. Our commitment to innovation is recognized through our success in the 2024 King's Awards for Enterprise in Innovation. Lead by CEO and Founder Mitchell Barnes, RYSE3D continues to shape the future of UK manufacturing and global 3D printing solutions.



Whiteley Brooks Engineering

Whiteley Brooks Engineering has been manufacturing precision components for numerous sectors since 1965. These include Motorsport, Formula 1, World Rally, Diesel Testing, Medical and Defence. Since the late 1970s, every world champion you have seen in Formula 1, their car has had a component or a range of parts that have been manufactured by Whiteley Brooks. Our team based in Coventry takes great pride in the work we carry out. This is one of the key factors in our success over the years.



Sustainability Innovator of the Year



Sustainability improves the quality of our lives, protects our ecosystem and preserves natural resources for future generations. It covers many aspects in business from manufacturing to logistics to customer service. Innovation is the key to making all aspects of our lives and businesses sustainable. This award celebrates those companies who are working hard to make their offering sustainable.



Beeswift

Of the 40million workwear garments provided to wearers annually in the UK over 90% end up in landfill or get incinerated. Beeswift's Envirowear® collection is 100% recycled and 100% recyclable.

Envirowear® is returned for recycling through project re:claim and the Pureloop ISEC machine installed at the Salvation Army Trading Company Ltd (SATCol) Kettering site. Envirowear® goes through the machine and is turned back into commercial grade rPET, ready to be made back into yarn or used in injection molding.



Grease Guardian

Grease Guardian is the leader in automatic grease removal technology, offering innovative solutions for commercial kitchens worldwide. Their systems efficiently extract fats, oils, and grease from wastewater, protecting drainage systems, significantly reducing pump out frequency, and lowering maintenance costs. Designed with sustainability in mind, their advanced technology harvests grease with less than 1% impurities, making it suitable for biofuel production, thus supporting the circular economy and reducing environmental impact. Leading global brands trust Grease Guardian's advanced grease removal technology to provide reliable solutions for the evolving food service industry.

Rentokil Initial

Rentokil Initial

EcoCatch Flies offers an innovative, sustainable solution to outdoor fly control. Designed and developed in-house by Rentokil, it is for businesses that value environmental responsibility without compromising efficacy. EcoCatch Flies is a non-toxic, effective and more professional way of controlling public health flies in outdoor locations and replaces conventional single-use plastic products saving tonnes of plastic waste per year. Over 33% of each unit is made from recycled plastic and can be reused almost indefinitely.

RUBÛCUP

Ruby Cup

Ruby Cup is a menstrual health company committed to breaking barriers for women everywhere. We create sustainable, high-quality period products that work for all while making a positive social impact.

Through our “Buy One, Give One” model, every purchase provides menstrual care to those in need, doubling our environmental impact by reducing waste and supporting sustainability. We believe periods should never hold anyone back, and our mission is to promote freedom, education, and a barrier-free, sustainable future for all.



Unity Trust Bank

Unity Trust Bank is an award-winning commercial bank that uses banking to improve the lives of UK communities. Living by its principles of banking with integrity, Unity's purpose is to help create a better society, not simply maximise profits.

Operating for 40 years, it supports organisations that share its values and address social, economic or environmental needs.

Every loan proposal is aligned against one or more of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals ensuring the bank's financing delivers quantifiable impact.



Net Zero Innovator of the Year

This award celebrates the outstanding companies at the forefront of net zero innovation. In a world increasingly focused on combating climate change, this award recognises those who envision a greener future and implement transformative solutions that drive significant progress toward achieving net zero emissions. By highlighting groundbreaking initiatives, technologies, and strategies, we honour the trailblazers who inspire others to take bold action and foster a more sustainable, resilient planet for future generations.



Alucast

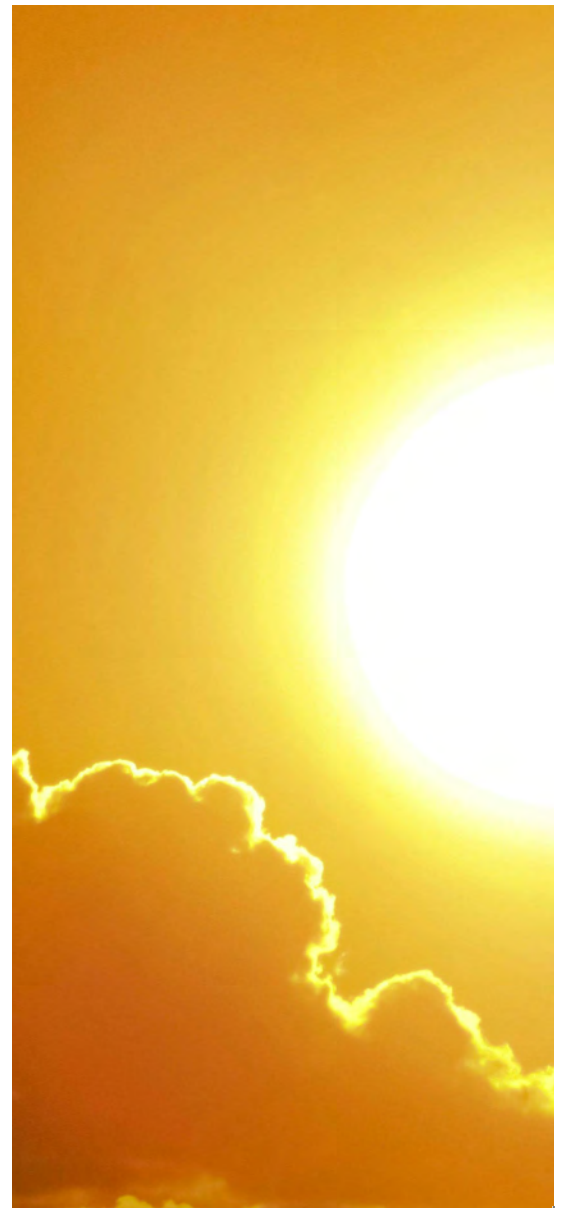
Alucasts foundries make aluminium castings in the Black Country. As a high energy user it has embarked on a strategy to reduce energy consumption by monitoring energy use by sub-metering its equipment. It has also invested in energy efficient furnaces.

This £200,000 innovative solution, will reduce unproductive energy use and the company's strategy is to reduce consumption by at least 10% in the first year. In real terms this means a reduction of £100,000 per annum in energy costs, reducing carbon emissions and assisting in its goal of net zero.



ASC Water & Energy

A UK company launching a globally patented, independently validated, 5th generation CSP technology for the efficient (98%) capture, generation and storage of thermal energy using only the power of the sun. Innovative technology that addresses all the shortcomings of existing CSP solutions enabling the decarbonisation of industries, mining operations and the production of green electricity, desalinated sea water and hydrogen. Their solution can have a positive impact in over 30 markets, and they have active engagements in MENA and Americas.



ERWIN HYMER CENTRE

Travelworld

Erwin Hymer Centre

Erwin Hymer Travelworld is a third-generation, family-run business led by managing director Ross Edwards. They offer new and used motorhomes, focusing on premium German brands like HYMER, Dethleffs, and Niesmann+Bischoff. Known for exceptional service and a customer-first approach, the company values innovation and community support. April Marsden and Jake Macquarie, part of the founding family, contribute to marketing and sales leadership. With strong values and a future-oriented outlook, Travelworld aims to inspire lifelong adventures through the world's finest leisure vehicles.

IVY TECH

Driving Innovation for a Sustainable Future

IVY TECH

IVY TECH, an award-winning deep-tech company founded in 2019, focuses on decarbonising the manufacturing sector using AI, AIOT sensors, and Lean processes. Since its inception, IVY TECH has experienced consistent growth, supporting a diverse range of customers on their decarbonisation and sustainability journeys. Its flagship product, ORiV, is a Digital Lean Optimisation solution designed to be scalable and adaptable to meet various customer needs. IVY TECH's innovative approach is driving sustainable transformation across industries, making it a leader in manufacturing decarbonisation.

bioscope

Bioscope

Bioscope are market leaders in the development of sustainable processes for metal recovery from waste electronics. Having developed processes at laboratory scale, Bioscope are progressing with their pilot plant to enable large-scale sustainable refining of metals. The work avoids the need for high energy, CO2 intensive refining and focuses on low impact, closed-loop methods with a lower carbon footprint. The innovative systems are designed for maximizing recovery and minimizing environmental impact.

Construction Innovator of the Year

This award honours the organisations that are revolutionising the construction industry through innovative practices and technologies. As the sector faces increasing demands for efficiency, sustainability, and safety, this award recognises those who are pushing the boundaries of traditional construction methods, embracing cutting-edge solutions, and setting new standards for excellence.

BuildPrompt

Build Prompt

BuildPrompt is an advanced AI-driven platform designed to optimize and automate the handling of extensive data types across various industries. It leverages cutting-edge technologies to structure the unstructured, transforming enterprise data for instant access to evidenced based decision making across millions of your data points, all in a secure environment using cutting edge natural language processing all whilst being supported in over 50 languages.

RDIA

Cordia UK

Cordia UK is a dynamic real estate development company, known for its innovative design and focus on energy efficiency and sustainability. As placemakers, Cordia create unique residential-led mixed used schemes throughout Birmingham, with a strong pipeline of developments in the city's Jewellery Quarter. Cordia UK is part of Futureal/Cordia Group, one of Europe's largest real estate development and investment companies, with a notable presence in the for-sale and rental markets in Hungary, Poland, Romania, Spain, and the UK.



ProBuild 360

ProBuild360

The UK's construction industry is known for its slow evolution. ProBuild360 offers a progressive alternative by integrating design, planning, construction, and installation services to challenge the static nature of the industry. We preserve traditional strengths while addressing outdated practices. Over the past two decades, we've enhanced our approach, consolidating our knowledge through both daily operations and a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project with Birmingham City University. Through initiatives like ProBuild360TV, we continue to lead innovation in domestic construction and property development.



SMART Balustrades

At SMART Balustrades, we are dedicated to delivering innovative balustrade solutions that combine cutting-edge technology with superior design. Our recent innovations include an AI-driven tool for contract analysis that streamlines project workflows, Project Switch, a revolutionary switchable glass balustrade offering instant privacy, and our LED handrail system, which enhances both safety and aesthetics. We are committed to pushing the boundaries of what's possible in the construction industry, always focusing on quality, safety, and customer satisfaction.



XYZ Reality

Delivering construction projects on time and within budget is increasingly complex. XYZ Reality helps by providing owners and contractors with accurate, objective tools to manage projects. Using engineering grade augmented reality™ technology and comprehensive Project Controls, construction teams can build accurately from 3D holograms and manage projects with real-time insights. Moving beyond outdated 2D drawings and subjective data, XYZ enables teams to build it right, first time, every time, while reducing risks and avoiding unnecessary costs.



Defence Innovator of the Year

The Defence Innovator of the Year award celebrates groundbreaking advancements in defence technology. It recognises organisations that have demonstrated exceptional creativity and ingenuity, leading to enhanced national security and operational effectiveness. By pushing the boundaries, these innovators play a pivotal role in shaping the future of defence.



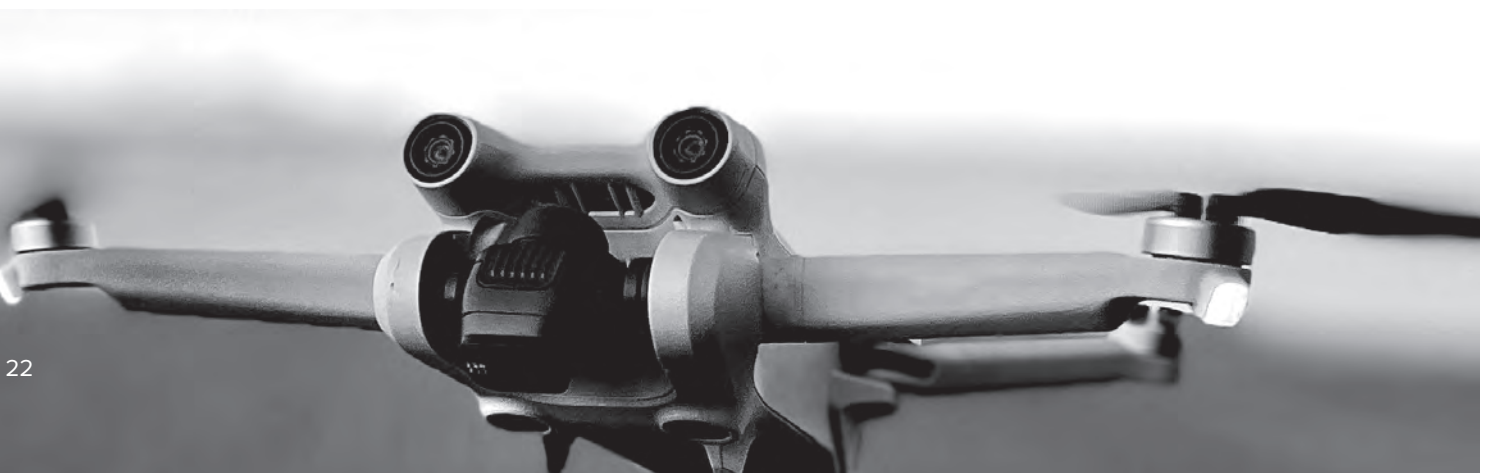
CyberQ Group

CyberQ Group is a global leader in cyber intelligence, strategy, and operational capability, trusted by leadership teams worldwide. Since participating in the 2016 Cyber London Accelerator, we've driven innovation with cutting-edge AI-driven solutions and continuous breach detection. Our 24/7 in-house Security Operations Centre monitors and protects against emerging threats, while our human reconnaissance tools offer deep visibility into digital risks. We continue to lead the way in cybersecurity innovation, delivering solutions that reduce risk, enhance resilience, and safeguard businesses' reputations across the globe.



Intercity

At Intercity, we help you Do More with cloud, security, communications and managed IT services. But tech is more than just a tool—it's about making amazing things happen. Whether it's ensuring a hospital can access vital patient information or helping a charity communicate in remote areas, we provide the expertise and support your business needs. By expanding your IT capabilities, we enable your people to #DoMore.



METCLOUD

GET CONNECTED • CYBER SAFE

METCLOUD

METCLOUD provides essential secure cloud services for Government National Security, Defence and Critical National Infrastructure. METCLOUD is a multi-award-winning UK secure sovereign & multi-cloud provider. In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, where data security and national sovereignty are paramount, METCLOUD stands as the beacon of trust and innovation. Our commitment to excellence ensures not only the highest standards of security but also empowers nations to harness the transformative potential of high-performance computing and artificial intelligence.



Origin8tive

Origin8tive's mission began with securing Critical National Infrastructure and has evolved into pioneering cyber technologies, cloud computing, and managed services. Driving growth and innovation through partnerships with UK armed forces, our rapidly expanding apprentice scheme and bespoke training to upskill our people. Our vision is to deliver excellence in cyber technology and software assurance, enabling clients to exceed their goals. We provide expertise in software testing, cloud solutions, automation, and managed services, ensuring a comprehensive approach to modern technological challenges.



Unmanned Air Veterans

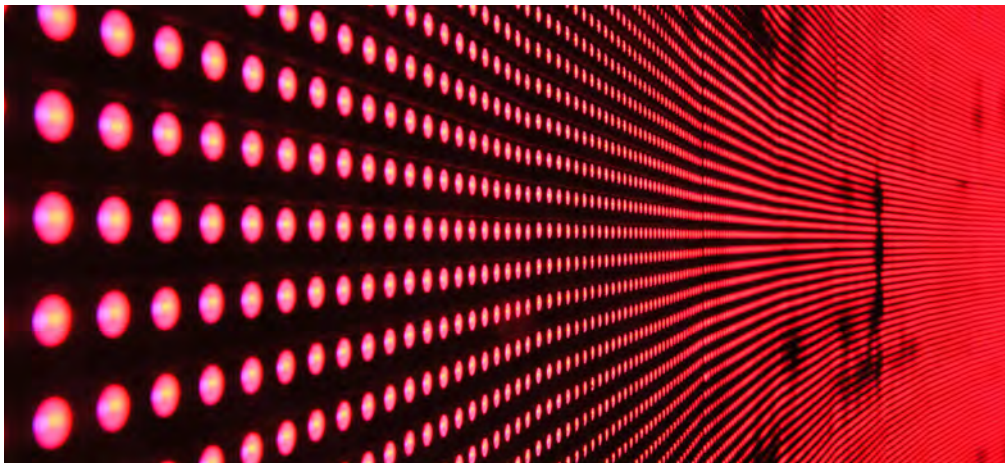
Stu & Tom are the founders and Directors of Unmanned Air Veterans Ltd. We are the premier drone operators on the market. We offer various skills, which were learnt while serving in the premier drone Regiment in the world.

UAV can provide aerial imagery for all of your inspection requirements using both normal and thermal imagery techniques. Our Drone Event Support service allows event organisers to utilise drone support within the running and organisation of their events, including media and security support.



Tech Innovator of the Year

The Technology Innovator of the Year award honours exceptional businesses that have transformed the technology landscape through their pioneering work. This award seeks to recognise those who have developed innovative solutions that address real-world challenges, improve efficiency, and foster connectivity. By redefining how we interact with technology, these innovators pave the way for a brighter, more advanced future.



Culture15

Our innovative new AI engine, converts speech into culture metrics, providing users with rich and actionable insight. The Culture15 dashboard is designed to empower managers with the data required to nurture the culture needed to be successful.

Our culture measurement platform allows organisations to measure behaviours, in order to diagnose the culture they have, define the culture they want and then close The Culture Gap® fuelled by clear strategy, repeated measurement and data-rich insights.

D/GAUGE

D/Gauge

D/Gauge, a leader in railway clearance solutions, ensures trains operate safely by maintaining essential distances from surrounding structures to prevent collisions. With decades of expertise, D/Gauge develops cutting-edge tools like D/Gauge Rift, which assess and optimise how rail infrastructure handles non-standard and complex cargo. Their solutions, endorsed by Network Rail and London Underground, support major rail networks worldwide. Through precise modelling and expert consultancy, D/Gauge enhances operational efficiency, safety, and compliance, making significant contributions to the global rail industry.

flink!

Flink!

Talent without borders.
Opportunity without limits.
Flink! prides itself on tech-driven recruiting. Our automated platform uses AI to match skills with psychometric assessments, revealing candidates' personalities, cognitive abilities, and experience. Employers can specify culture fit, role requirements, and pre-interview questions. Ranked candidates are delivered with a video, achieving a 97% success rate. Benefits include fast turnaround, global talent access, accurate matching, cost savings, precise screening, EOR agreements, and referencing to ensure the perfect fit.

G graide

Graide

Graide is an innovative AI-powered marking tool designed to enhance the efficiency, consistency, and accuracy of assessments. Unlike traditional generative AI, Graide uses a classification-based approach, ensuring it avoids issues like bias, inconsistency, and lack of explainability.

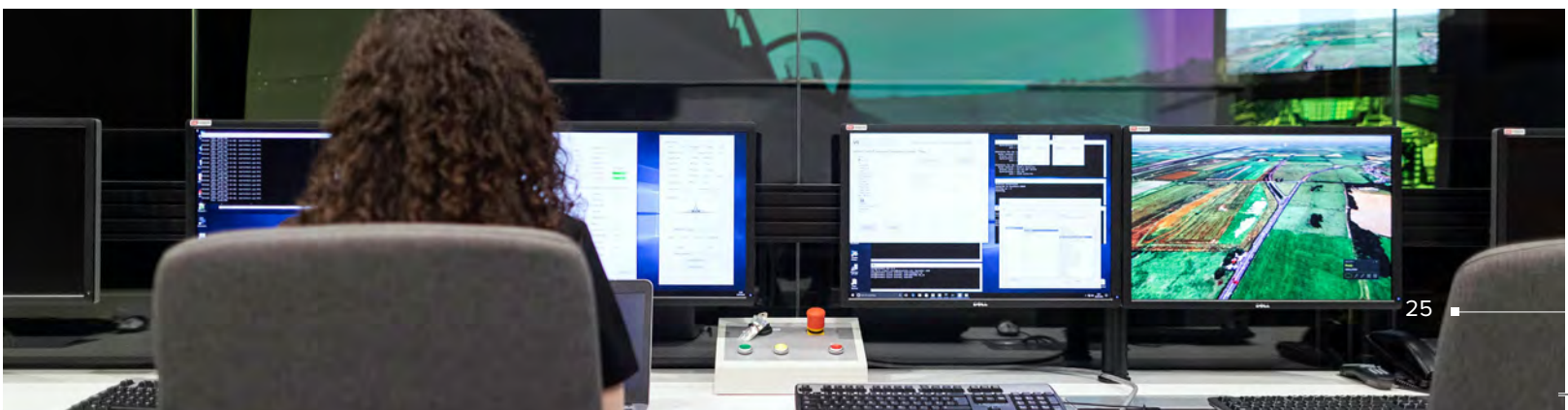
It provides transparent, reliable feedback, making the grading process faster and fairer. Ideal for higher education and training providers, it empowers educators to focus more on teaching and less on administrative tasks. Graide works for higher education, vocational education, and apprenticeships.

intercity

Intercity

At Intercity, we help you Do More with cloud, security, communications, and managed IT services. But tech is more than just a tool—it's about making amazing things happen.

Whether it's ensuring a hospital can access vital patient information or helping a charity communicate in remote areas, we provide the expertise and support your business needs. By expanding your IT capabilities, we enable your people to #DoMore.



Health Tech Innovator of the Year

The Health Tech Innovator of the Year award recognises trailblazers in the healthcare technology sector who are reshaping patient care and medical practices. This award highlights those who have developed innovative solutions that enhance diagnostics, treatment, and overall healthcare delivery. By bridging the gap between technology and medicine, these individuals are making significant strides in improving health outcomes and accessibility for all.



Aston Vision Sciences

Aston Vision Sciences is an innovative creator of customer driven, high-value solutions for the ophthalmic eyecare market. We are on a mission to make healthcare and treatment accessible to everyone – creating a positive impact on the world. Our approach is benchmarked by elegance, simplification and making life better for all.



TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED CARE

Black Space Technology

Black Space Technology's Rapid-EPR solution is a scalable telemedicine software designed for pre-hospital emergency care in remote and challenging environments. The system integrates electronic patient records (EPR), real-time wireless vital sign monitoring, and telemedicine videoconferencing into a versatile platform that operates on Android devices. Rapid-EPR aims to 'close the care gap'—the crucial time between point-of-injury and receiving definitive medical care—making it ideal for battlefields, conflict zones, disaster relief areas, and regions with limited healthcare infrastructure.





Forge Genetics

Forge Genetics is a contract research organisation that offers microbiology development services. By leveraging proprietary DNA-editing technology and world-class expertise, the company develops bespoke Genetically Modified Organisms for its clients.

In an ever-evolving and advancing medical field, Forge Genetics is positioned to efficiently support its clients in optimising their R&D processes, with specialists in genetics and biotechnology. Forge Genetics' technology provides safe genetic engineering that promises to propel innovation in the medical and wider biotechnology field.



InoCardia

InoCardia is revolutionising drug safety with a life-changing method that predicts heart-related side effects in early-stage drug development. By mimicking the heart's function, InoCardia's approach offers more accurate and efficient testing.

After a decade of dedication and collaboration with global pharmaceutical companies, and with support from Innovate UK, our innovative technologies, including our world-leading predictive AI cardiac safety platform will help the pharmaceutical industry develop safer and effective drugs for patients, potentially saving lives and reducing costs.



St James Clinics

We pride ourselves on the slogan "Be You Again" approach to provide patients with innovative, non-invasive treatments that effectively address and alleviate pain, ultimately enhancing sufferers' mental health and quality of life, while improving social impact.

Dominated by Musculo-skeletal disorders, the one term associated with pain has always been pain management. The name describes what this sector does, its managing pain. Our goal is to disrupt this market by creating a paradigm shift from pain management towards pain treatment, opening the doors to develop a stagnant pain management market.



Media Innovator of the Year

The Media Innovator of the Year award celebrates those who have redefined the media landscape through creativity and innovation. This accolade recognises businesses that have harnessed new technologies and storytelling techniques to engage audiences and promote meaningful dialogue. By challenging conventional narratives and exploring new platforms, these innovators are shaping the future of media.



59A

At 59A, we believe the AI era will not simply be a linear journey of technological advancement. Instead, it represents a transformative renaissance characterised by three key elements:

Complexity: Unlocking new possibilities and competitive advantages.

Clarity: Providing a lens to navigate that complexity.

Creativity: Serving as our guiding navigator.

We don't have to choose between these elements; at 59A, we integrate all three, making our approach truly unique. These elements translate into significant benefits for our clients.



BLACKROOK ACADEMY

BlackRook Academy

BlackRook Academy empowers individuals and businesses through expert social media training and employability skills. In 18 months, we've trained hundreds of unemployed people in the West Midlands, with over half securing employment or freelance work.

Our team of industry professionals delivers up-to-date training in digital marketing, media production, and more. We partner with schools, colleges, and local businesses to ensure real-world opportunities, offering ongoing support and job interviews for all learners. Our impact extends to supporting youth and local entrepreneurs through workshops and community projects.



Cucumber PR

Whilst some agencies hide behind AI, content creation and newswires, Cucumber PR innovates by doing things the traditional way...building personal relationships with journalists, writing content and news they want and delivering it on time.

This has seen the husband-and-wife team secure more than £30million of strategic coverage for a 25-strong client base that ranges from start-ups and young entrepreneurs to social enterprises, major manufacturing businesses and tech specialists.

It also provides more than 100 hours of pro-bono PR support annually.



Lynchpin Media

Lynchpin Media is transforming the IT industry's approach to marketing through innovative content and lead generation strategies. Our solutions connect businesses with top decision-makers, enhancing visibility and driving meaningful engagement.

We specialise in delivering targeted B2B campaigns, insightful industry reports and video interview content that elevate brands, as well as a set of magazine publications spotlighting innovation across industries. Through our strategies, we empower organisations to thrive in the digital landscape, pushing the boundaries of innovation and marketing effectiveness.



NarrativeWorx

The Power of Three framework by NarrativeWorx is invaluable for developing effective strategies. By integrating insights from buyers, customers, and industry experts, this framework helps agencies and vendors create content that resonates deeply with target audiences.

Their Impact Predictor enhances content relevance by forecasting audience engagement, enabling agencies and vendors to refine messaging before publication. This data-driven approach not only improves campaign effectiveness but also strengthens buyer relationships by aligning strategies with actual market needs, ultimately driving better results.

New Innovation of the Year

This award showcases the most groundbreaking and original ideas that have emerged in the past year across various industries. It recognises a singular innovation that has the potential to disrupt existing practices and drive significant change.



ELECTROGENOS

Electrogenos

Electrogenos has developed high-efficiency electrolysis technology for green hydrogen production, beating Chinese electrolyser costs while manufacturing locally in the UK. Our key technological advantage is our patented catalyst, which outperforms platinum while being 50 times cheaper. This reduces hydrogen production costs by minimising energy consumption and manufacturing costs through a catalyst-enabled enhanced electrode design. By leveraging advanced materials and innovative engineering, our technology supports large-scale green hydrogen production. This provides a sustainable, economically viable alternative to traditional methods for a net zero energy future.



Flux Aviation

At Flux Aviation we are developing electric motors and batteries to power next-generation electric aircraft. This will make flying over 40% cheaper and dramatically quieter, while removing nearly 200 million tonnes of CO2 in the process. Our first product is FLUX-75, an electric propulsion system designed for light training aircraft. We have successfully tested a functional prototype using our test bench, demonstrated our next-generation battery modules and work is now underway on our flying aircraft demonstrator.





iBiotech

iBiotech

iBiotech has developed a scalable, sustainable alternative to traditional leather within one year. Leveraging Innovate-UK funding, accelerator support, and angel investment, they have successfully proven their concept, filed a patent, and initiated scaling up production. This innovative solution addresses pressing environmental concerns associated with the fashion industry, offering a more sustainable and ethical leather option for consumers, primarily geared toward B2B sales. The company also consults, carries out research and provides services on diverse topics, such as Parkinson's and bioremediation.



MESOX

MESOX is transforming the way pharmaceuticals are formulated through next-generation carrier technologies. Our mission is to expedite the development of life-saving therapeutics by enhancing the speed and efficiency of the formulation process. We leverage our patented carrier technologies and digital formulation models to deliver a 505(b)(2) therapeutic pipeline with enhanced bioavailability, reducing dose exposure/administration frequency and improving patient compliance, ultimately leading to better patient outcomes.



Veritie

Veritie will touch a billion lives by leveraging photonics and machine learning to make point-of-care vitro diagnostic tests faster (within the period of a typical consultation), better (allow urine testing to displace invasive tests) and cheaper (to allow global utility).

We are achieving this by leveraging the UK's excellence in photonics and Oxford's excellence in healthcare, and working with the UK's National Physical Laboratory. Oxford PhD Cici Muldoon has grown the team to 16 people supported by gold-standard advisory boards.



Female Innovator of the Year

The Female Innovator of the Year award honours exceptional women who are leading the charge in innovation across diverse fields. This accolade recognises their contributions, challenges, and accomplishments in driving change and inspiring future generations. By shining a light on these trailblazers, we celebrate the impact of female leadership in fostering a culture of innovation and inclusivity.



Adrienne Houston,
Eurovacuum Products

Dr Adrienne Houston is the director and owner of Eurovacuum Products Ltd, a pioneering company specializing in vacuum systems and low pressure technologies. Her innovative contributions include developing a groundbreaking vacuum evaporator and a carbon capture process to improve environmental sustainability. In addition, Adrienne serves as an ethical advisor at Accunea Ltd a MedTech company revolutionising organ transplantation devices. Her leadership, vision and commitment to innovation have significant impact on both industrial and medical sectors.



Dee Kundi, Find Me a Solicitor

Dee Kundi is a qualified solicitor helping people and businesses, providing assistance through her expertise. She is the CEO & Founder of Findmeasolicitor.co.uk, a legal tech business which is an independent FREE service for all individuals and businesses looking to find the right solicitor for all personal and business legal needs. Findmeasolicitor.co.uk have the expertise to advise clients on finding a solicitor based on their sector specialisms, budget, location and all areas of law by offering 30 minutes free legal consultation.





Ifeoluwa Oyatokun, Nobeel

Ifeoluwa Oyatokun is the founder of Network of Black Entrepreneurs and Economic Leaders.

She is a prominent business executive and public speaker dedicated to empowering the BAME community.

She leverages her expertise in finance, business consulting, and the digital economy to drive positive change and create social impact. As the founder of the Network of Black Entrepreneurs and Economic Leaders, she supports start-ups and entrepreneurs across the UK.

Her initiatives drive social impact and address the unique challenges faced by minority communities.



Joanna Birch, GROWTHINNK Associates

Jo has been working in the region for the last 25 years, supporting innovation and transformation, working across the Creative Industries, Manufacturing, and more recently Life Sciences. She spent 10 years researching, building knowledge and international connections across US, Canada and Europe, seeding the innovation thinking that created BCU's STEAMhouse. This year she joined Woodbourne Group as their CIO, set up GROWTHINNK Associates, an innovation consultancy inspired by her work, and became a Non Exec Director for Tech WM.



Kirsty Davies-Chinnock, Women with Metal

With 35 years experience in the metal sector running the UK's largest mechanical polishing company Kirsty founded Women with Metal to provide an inspiring space for women working in male dominated industries. Following on from the first Conference in 2023 she was approached to provide The Aluminium Awards in Dusseldorf as well as doubling attendance at the 2nd conference held at The ICC. She is also the founder of the Women in Industry Podcast which showcases and celebrates women working in industrial sectors.



Male Innovator of the Year

The Male Innovator of the Year award recognises outstanding men who have made significant contributions to the landscape of innovation. This accolade celebrates their visionary thinking, impactful projects, and commitment to driving progress across various sectors. By acknowledging their achievements, we highlight the impact they are having in the world of innovation.



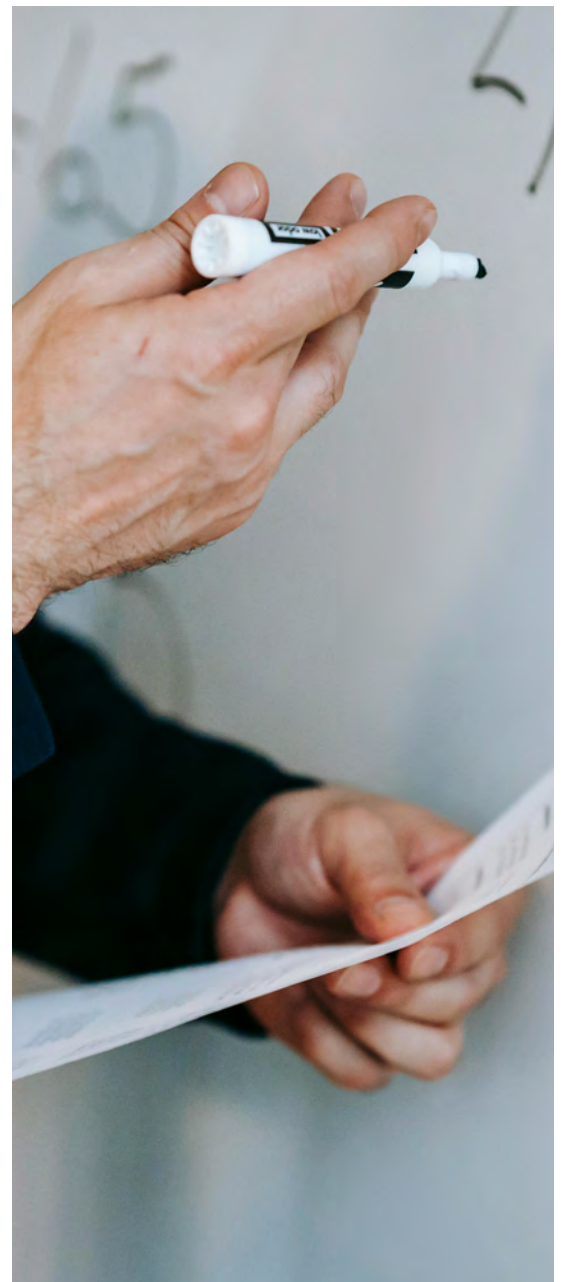
Fraser Neill,
Foundation For Good

Foundation For Good is a registered charity dedicated to supporting disabled individuals, disadvantaged youth, and marginalised populations in England's most deprived communities. We offer innovative education based on neuroplasticity research, mental health services, and holistic wellness programmes, including combat sports, boxing and Tag Combat. Our community space includes a food bank, wellbeing café, and fitness facilities to promote healthy living. Through partnerships with local authorities and schools, we create lasting change and brighter futures for our members.



Jonathon Nimmons,
WriteSeen

Jonathon Nimmons is the founder of WriteSeen, a groundbreaking global platform that connects writers, creators, and artists with industry professionals, revolutionising creative collaboration. As the first social creative marketplace of its kind, WriteSeen offers a secure, barrier-free space for creatives to showcase their projects, receive feedback, and be discovered by industry decision-makers. With members in over 50 countries and a commitment to inclusivity, WriteSeen empowers talent from all backgrounds to thrive and innovate on an international stage, making it a true leader in creative innovation.





Michael Boxwell,

Voltempo

Michael's company, Voltempo, has created the world's most powerful electric vehicle charger. Protected by two patents, the charger is built in Birmingham and has been demonstrated charging an EV in under six minutes. To develop the market, Michael then created a consortium of companies to decarbonise the Heavy Goods Vehicle sector, raising £76M by mobilising vehicle manufacturers, fleet operators, politicians, and the Department for Transport to fund a nationwide HGV charging network and deploy electric HGVs across the industry.



Nick Conn,

Rehubs

Nick Conn, a former police officer, overcame a personal struggle with cocaine addiction that left him homeless on the streets of Berlin. Since turning his life around, he has founded Help4Addiction, one of the largest addiction advisory services in the UK. Nick also launched Rehubs, an innovative online rehab platform that is reshaping the way addiction treatment is delivered, providing accessible, intensive care to those in need. His mission is to revolutionize addiction recovery and offer hope to others facing similar challenges.



Tom Haworth,

B13

Tom Haworth, Founder of B13.ai, is dedicated to helping non-technical founders bring their ideas to life. B13.ai bridges the gap between vision and execution, providing expertise that guides founders through the entire software development journey. By combining proven processes, automation, and AI, B13.ai ensures best practices are continuously refined and evolved. We focus on helping founders understand what's possible, delivering clarity, structure, and confidence in turning ideas into reality, while de-risking the development process and guaranteeing results that align with their vision.

**Innovation
Awards/2024**

Young Innovator of the Year



This award honours individuals under the age of 35 who are making waves in their respective fields and whose innovative ideas and solutions demonstrate exceptional promise and creativity. By recognising their achievements, we encourage the next generation of innovators to reshape the future.



Chapa Bandara,

Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG)

As an Innovation Manager in the WMG SME Team, Chapa Bandara (BSc Chemistry, PhD Materials Engineering), has engaged with 30+ UK based SMEs to solve their Materials and Manufacturing challenges. Offering local businesses essential tools for their growth and innovation, she helps them understand and optimise materials use, maximise product quality, efficiency and sustainability, positioning them for continued success. She also mentors the next generation of engineers and scientists to navigate innovation and promotes knowledge transfer from academia to industry.



Harry Conway, STEAMhouse

Harry Conway is the visionary force behind STEAMhouse's Digital Labs, empowering regional start-ups to scale with cutting-edge resources and expert guidance. His leadership has catalyzed over £2m in funding, driving innovative digital solutions and shaping the future of entrepreneurship in our region.



Helene Ntuadi,

Meka Connect

Meka Connect brings people and communities together through fun and engaging activities that celebrate culture. Starting as Meka Toys, we've grown to include books, games, fashion, and programmes. Our aim is to combine these areas to create exciting cultural experiences that enrich and inspire our community.

Our mission is to bring people and communities together by creating fun, engaging experiences that celebrate culture. From toys to books, games, fashion, and programmes, we blend these areas to offer unique cultural experiences that inspire, educate, and connect our customers. hypercar components, to furniture, to decorative bridge parapets.



Mitchell Barnes,

RYSE3D

RYSE3D is a leading Production 3D printing company, with expertise in the automotive sector, contributing to over 17 hyper-car programs. Growing 100% year-on-year over seven years since our inception, we aim to be the world leader in production 3D printing and 3D printed tooling. Our commitment to innovation is recognized through our success in the 2024 King's Awards for Enterprise in Innovation. Lead by CEO and Founder Mitchell Barnes, RYSE3D continues to shape the future of UK manufacturing and global 3D printing solutions.

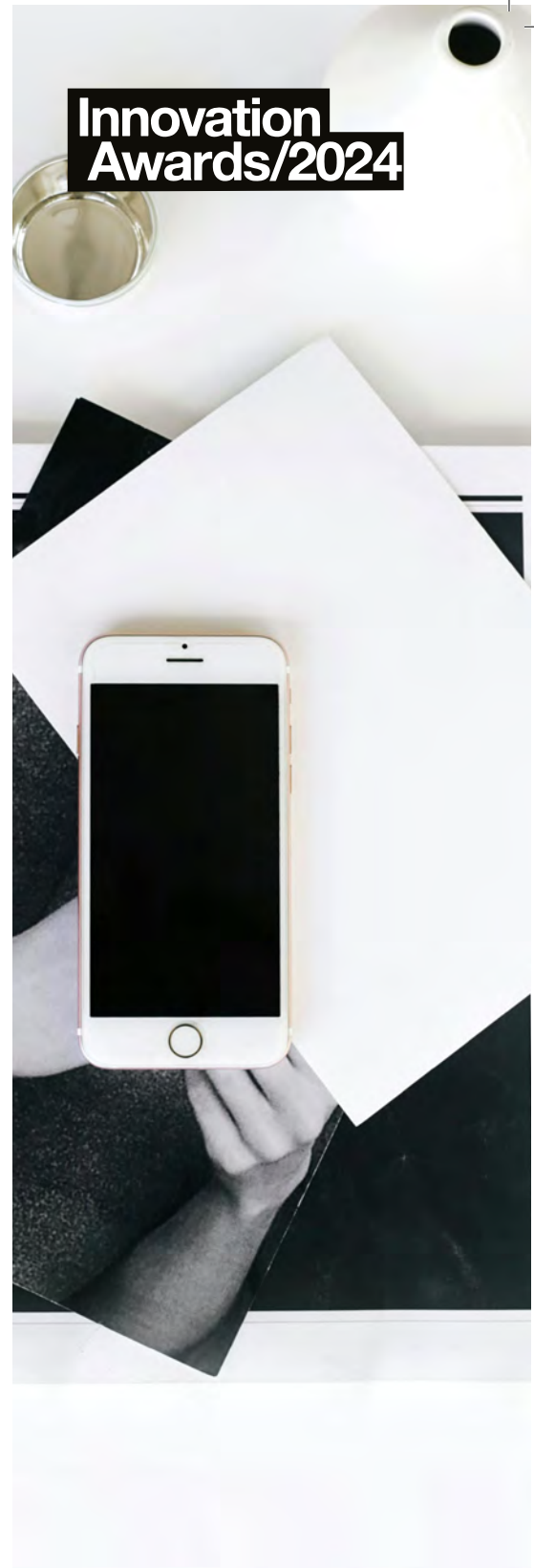


Tani Dulay,

Woodbourne Group

Tani founded Woodbourne Group in 2019, building a £50 million asset base, a £500 million pipeline, earning 15 awards and recognised in Forbes. He's behind Curzon Wharf, UK's first net-zero, mixed-use ecosystem, including Birmingham's first life science investment zone building. He's secured record-breaking exits with S&P 500 funds, including the off-market sale of a Lidl UK GmbH-leased asset to Realty Income. A dedicated advocate for Birmingham, he raised £500,000 for charity in 24 hours and remains active in local philanthropy.

**Innovation
Awards/2024**



Manufacturing Innovation Champion

This award recognises organisations that have excelled in helping manufacturers to innovate and advance their processes and technologies. It celebrates those who have been instrumental in developing innovative solutions which enhance efficiency, sustainability, and quality in production. By honouring these champions, we highlight the vital role they play in transforming the manufacturing landscape and driving economic growth.



Coventry University

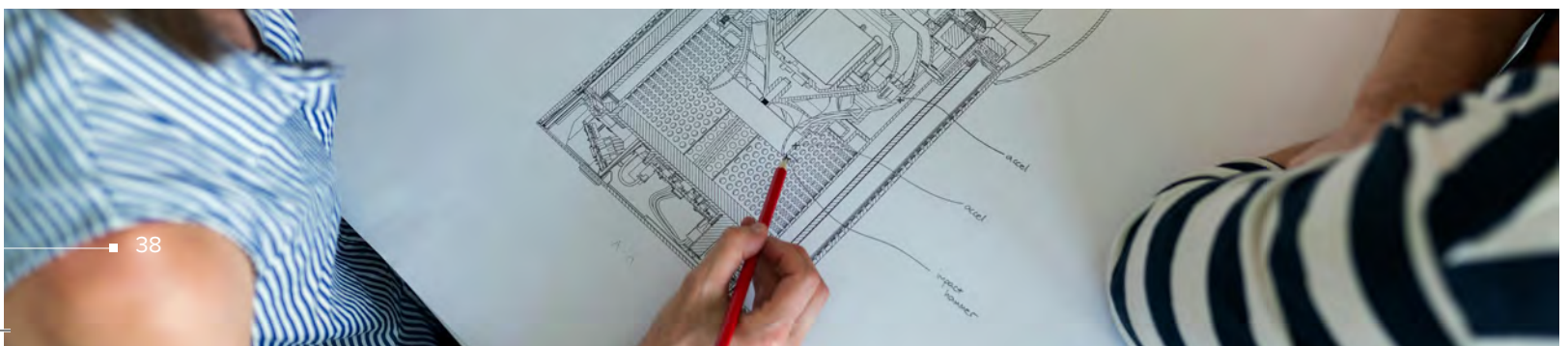
Coventry University has provided technical and commercial support to SMEs for over 30 years. Nominated for our work in the Clean Futures Innovation Accelerator we provide access to our state-of-the-art facilities at the Institute for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering (AME) and the Centre for Advanced Low Carbon Propulsion Systems (C-ALPS). These world-class facilities will support the development of manufacturing techniques, industry mentorship and sustainable technologies aimed at accelerating green transport innovations and bringing them to market.



In-Comm Training

In-Comm Training, which is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, is one of the UK's leading independent training providers, supporting over 1000 apprentices and 500 companies every year with apprenticeships, upskilling opportunities, and strategic consultancy.

Operating from two world class technical academies in Aldridge and Telford, the company has pioneered an employer-led approach to skills, engaging with firms to understand their requirements and then collaborating with them on shaping course delivery, launching new training facilities and futureproofing staff for years to come.



MADE SMARTER

Made Smarter

C&W Business Solutions, part of the CW Growth Hub Group, leads the Made Smarter West Midlands programme on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority, The Department for Business & Trade, Business Growth West Midlands, and the Growth Hubs in Worcestershire, Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire, and The Marches.

Made Smarter West Midlands also collaborates with a range of strategic partners, who help participants benefit from the expertise of digital manufacturing specialists, including Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) and the Manufacturing Technology Centre (MTC).



YOUR PARTNER FOR GROWTH

MSC Business Services

MSC Business Services has an impressive track record in helping high-growth companies unlock their potential.

Led by business specialist Michael Collins, the consultancy delivers cutting-edge business development advice, sales techniques, and marketing support.

The firm's client portfolio spans automotive tier 1s and major construction businesses to high-tech start-ups like RYSE 3D, one of the UK's fastest-growing additive manufacturing disruptors.



Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG)

The WMG SME Group supports regional manufacturing growth, emphasising technology, innovation, and skills development. Recognising the importance of leadership, we've created a program to develop leadership skills among existing talent in manufacturers. Participants are guided through leadership in teams, business, and innovation, applying these skills through mini-projects to make a positive impact on their companies.

By listening to our clients and collaborating with them, we ensure the program aligns with their needs, helping manufacturers become more competitive and retain key employees.

Technology Innovation Champion

The Technology Innovation Champion Award honours those organisations that have helped other to make remarkable strides in technology innovation. This accolade celebrates organisations whose groundbreaking work has led to significant advancements in technology that impact society. By recognising their achievements, we inspire further exploration and innovation that addresses contemporary challenges.



CBIT Venture Builder Centre

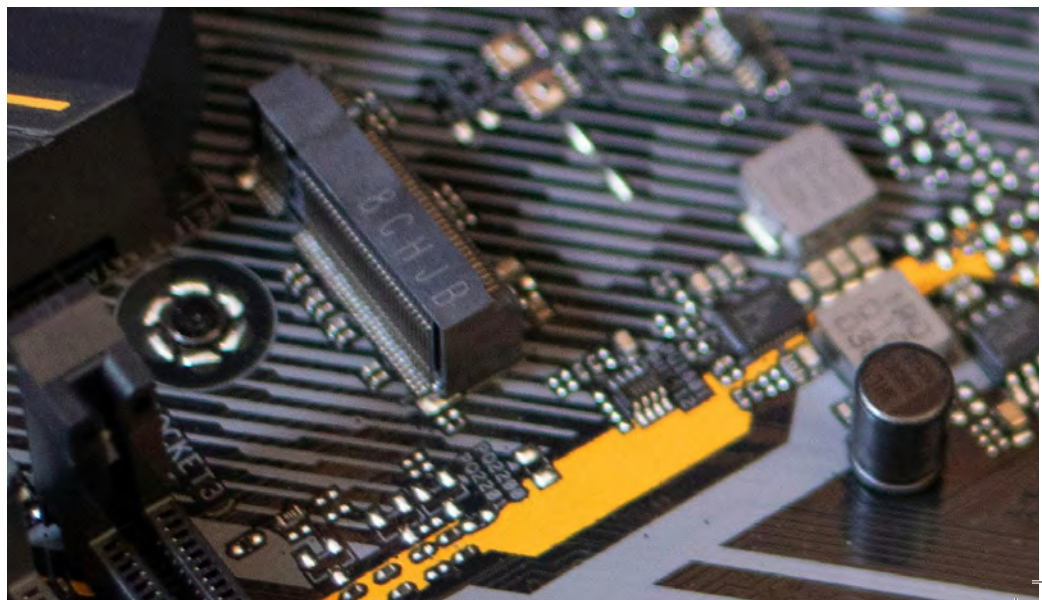
In a bid to revolutionise the accelerator model, The Centre for Business & Industry Transformation (CBIT) Venture Builder provides tailored, on-demand, 1-on-1 support to start-ups, SMEs, and spinouts across the UK. The venture builder onboards 12 innovative start-ups per year that intend to disrupt industry norms. CBIT Venture Builder has found significant success in scaling ventures in industries ranging from deeptech to consumer products, helping them collectively raise over £1.2m over the past year. Contact us at cbit.vb@ntu.ac.uk



Electric Revolution Skills Hub

Electric Revolution Skills Hub (ERS Hub)

The ERS Hub is a ground-breaking initiative that serves as a central skills resource for the electrification community. By bridging the gap between education and industry, it fosters collaboration across multiple sectors, promotes innovation, and addresses the skills gap essential for a greener future. The Hub acts as a national platform for skills development, talent connection and career transitions, ensuring that people and skills are not barriers to growth. It plays a vital role in driving the electrification eco system forward.





CyberQ Group

CyberQ Group is a global leader in cyber intelligence, strategy, and operational capability, trusted by leadership teams worldwide. Since participating in the 2016 Cyber London Accelerator, we've driven innovation with cutting-edge AI-driven solutions and continuous breach detection. Our 24/7 in-house Security Operations Centre monitors and protects against emerging threats, while our human reconnaissance tools offer deep visibility into digital risks. We continue to lead the way in cybersecurity innovation, delivering solutions that reduce risk, enhance resilience, and safeguard businesses' reputations across the globe.



School of Code

With the rise of automation School of Code is on a mission to transform lives through tech, bridge the digital skills gap and increase diversity in the industry. We offer free, intensive coding bootcamps accessible to everyone, regardless of background, taking people from zero to professional developer in just 13 weeks. Informed by industry experts our award-winning curriculum ensures our bootcampers graduate as top talent as we work to help them find their first job in tech.



Powered by
BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

STEAMhouse

STEAMhouse is on a mission to enable collaborative innovation. We're an award-winning innovation centre and supportive community where entrepreneurs, creatives, students, businesses and organisations co-exist to solve real-world problems and develop new ideas. We provide the latest technology, kit and equipment, complemented by portfolio of services and programmes that include skills development, space hire, consultancy services, and events. We make innovation happen.



Growth Innovation Champion

This award recognises exceptional organisations that have helped others to achieve outstanding growth through innovative practices and strategies. This accolade highlights their ability to help others to adapt, evolve, and thrive in competitive markets. By celebrating these champions, we encourage a culture of innovation that drives sustainable growth and economic success.



Alzheimer's Society Innovation Team

Dementia is the UK's biggest killer, affecting around a million people today in the UK and costing the economy an estimated £42bn a year. The Innovation team at Alzheimer's Society aims to match the huge challenge of dementia by working to deliver a product or solution to every person affected by dementia at every stage of the condition. We run end-to-end innovation support, from initial inspiration to scale-up and have reached well over 100,000 people affected by dementia.



Aston University

Aston University's international reputation for innovation and knowledge exchange activities is exemplified by its Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) activity funded by Innovate UK. The quality and scale of their projects with regional and UK companies is sector leading and recognised nationally. Further growth is envisaged as part of the University's 2030 strategy and they estimate that their target portfolio will generate £325M in pre-tax profit and 660 new jobs for their business collaborators within 3 years of project completion.





Crowe UK

We proudly recognise British manufacturing's legacy of innovation, creativity, and excellence. Our annual surveys highlight the challenges manufacturers face, revealing areas where support and significant changes are needed.

87% of recent respondents believe government support is inadequate. In response, we created a 'Manifesto for Manufacturing', advocating for greater support and a dedicated industry minister.

Collaborating with key contributors, we pinpointed critical areas for government action: skills and education, investment and innovation, energy and net-zero goals, supply chain strategy, and access to funding and finance



Midven

For 30+ years, Midven has fueled innovation and growth in the West Midlands. With over £100 million invested, we provide early-stage businesses with more than just capital. Our hands-on approach and strategic expertise empower entrepreneurs to realise their visions. We help build strong teams, refine strategies, and help to create an environment where innovation flourishes. Midven is proud to be a catalyst for transformative change, shaping the future of the region.



Sustainability West Midlands

SWM acts as the zero carbon lead for the West Midlands Innovation Programme (WMIP); supporting a range of businesses and entrepreneurs to collaborate to innovate. We have run the Innovative Zero Carbon Working Group for around a decade, and have supported a number of innovation pilot projects through WMIP. SWM also supports its members to reduce their environmental impact through both process and product innovation, and through the opportunity to collaborate with our membership.

Innovation Thought Leader

ORGANISATION

Innovation thought leaders support businesses by providing the finance, facilities, inspirational platforms (e.g. meetings, memberships, speaking opportunities etc.) or technology they require to innovate. This award rewards those businesses and organisations that have helped others to innovate.



ARC.

Advanced
Research
Clusters

Advanced Research Clusters (ARC)

ARC (Advanced Research Clusters) provides flexible laboratory and workspaces for scientists and innovators tackling the world's greatest challenges. With over 10,000 people from 300 science and tech companies, ARC recognises the importance of delivering neuroinclusive laboratories and spaces to help members at ARC thrive, advancing scientific progress and driving excellence in tech research. This commitment underscores ARC's mission to solve the business of science, so science can change the world.



Circular Economy Innovation Communities (CEIC)

The CEIC project, a partnership between Swansea and Cardiff Metropolitan University (ESF funded), developed 191 practitioners from 81 organizations to co-produce service solutions for Net Zero targets, leading to 28 innovations that saved £65,000 and save a further £35,823 and 2612.02KgCO₂e PA. These solutions combined with an innovation ecosystem of >1200 practitioners have been celebrated by Welsh Government and other bodies. CEIC's impact is documented in ten peer-reviewed papers, and they have secured additional funding from Welsh Government and UKSPF.



FundingHero

FundingHero is a unique Edtech that empowers incubators and accelerators to teach startup founders how to become truly funding-ready and create a robust business plan.

Used by Growth Hubs, Universities and Accelerators, our Edtech platform addresses a major skills gap to provide a plug-and-play, scalable solution to educate startups and aspiring scaleups.

Our simple to follow, structured learning process, powerfully combines over 50 bite sized modules with an AI assistant and easy to use interactive tools to create stronger learning outcomes and more robust businesses.



West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster

West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster promotes growth, both in our region's economy and the number of good quality jobs, through support for the expanding number of HealthTech businesses located in the West Midlands.

The cluster's research tells us there are over 600 HealthTech businesses, supporting tens of thousands of jobs directly and in their supply chains who are adding gross value to our region's economy of £5.6bn every year, and the sector's growth prospects are very strong.

Locally-led Innovation Accelerators delivered in partnership with DSIT, Innovate UK and City Regions



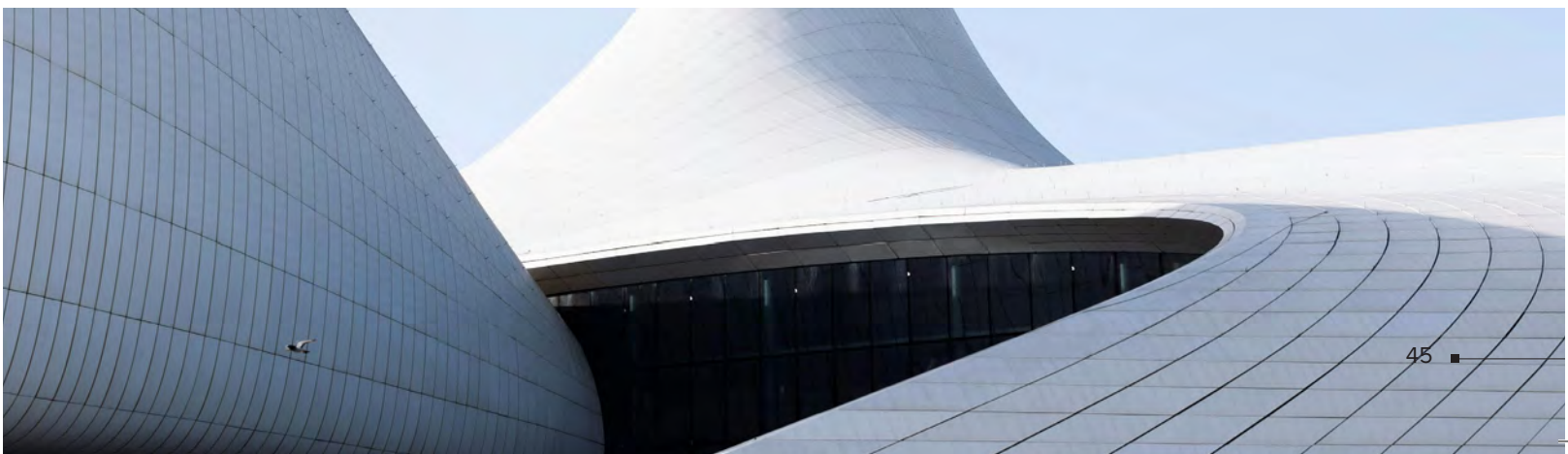
Innovate UK



West Midlands Combined Authority

West Midlands Innovation Accelerator

Led by Innovate UK, in partnership with WMCA, the Innovation Accelerators programme invested £33m government funding in 5 transformative R&D projects to accelerate the growth of high-potential innovation clusters across HealthTech, CleanTech and Digital Creativity. This is a new model of decision making, empowering local leaders to harness innovation to drive regional economic growth, help attract private investment, and develop future technologies. To date the programme has supported 500 businesses and generated an additional £80m in co-investment.



Innovation Thought Leader

INDIVIDUAL

This award celebrates individuals whose ideas and insights have profoundly impacted the field of innovation. This accolade recognises those who consistently challenge conventional wisdom, advocate for creative problem-solving, and inspire others to think differently. By honouring these thought leaders, we emphasise the power of innovative thinking in shaping the future.



Ikenna Umeh,
BT Group

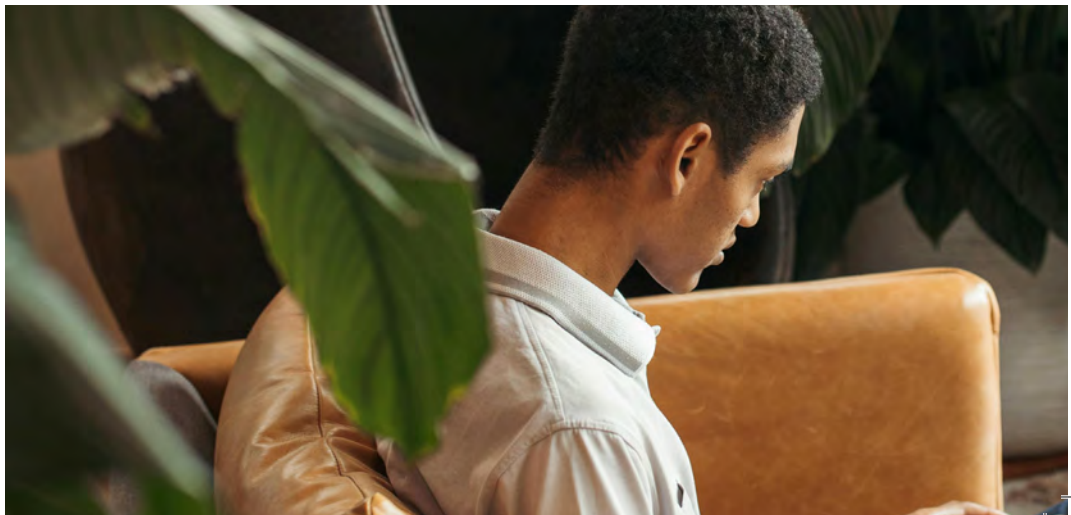
A security research professional, Ikenna specialises in cybersecurity, AI and machine learning. He's dedicated to advancing security measures and developing innovative solutions to protect against emerging threats. BT Group plc is a British multinational telecommunications company providing fixed-line, broadband, mobile, and IT services.



Mark Swift,
Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG)

Mark leads WMG's initiatives helping small businesses grow through research led innovation, technology adoption, leadership and new thinking.

His team helps SMEs manufacture more in the UK by developing or improving their products or processes and technologies by accelerating and de-risking the uptake of innovation. This work has culminated in generating over £450m for the Midlands economy, working with hundreds of small businesses and creating, or safeguarding, over 14,000 industry jobs.





Matt Beveridge,
University of Birmingham

With over a decade in Higher Education and six years' experience as a non-executive director, Matt Beveridge is recognised for his strategic vision, forward-thinking ideas, successful collaborations and impactful initiatives.

As Head of Innovation and Partnerships (Estates) at the University of Birmingham, he identifies innovation opportunities through research and analysis to support the University's aspirations. Matt also assists senior leadership in forming partnerships aligned with strategic priorities and is passionate about universities' role in advancing knowledge to enhance our world.



Nathan Coyle,
Austrian Centre for Peace

Nathan Coyle leads PeaceTech at the Austrian Centre for Peace and is the Founder of the Open PeaceTech Hub at the Austrian Institute of Technology. He focuses on using digital innovation to bridge divides, advocating for digital access as a human right. With a civic tech mindset, Nathan collaborates with the EU and global governments to make digital policy more inclusive. He is also the author of "Open Data for Everybody," championing the power of open data for social good.



Pamela Aculey,
MIXD Reality

I'm Pamela Aculey, an award-winning author, entrepreneur, and mother of three. Inspired by my autistic son, Walter, I founded MIXD Reality, a company pioneering immersive augmented reality experiences that transform storytelling. I created the first-ever interactive AR children's book, featuring diverse and inclusive characters. At MIXD Reality, we work with publishers, authors, and brands to bring content to life across books, learning, and play. My mission is to champion diversity, accessibility, and innovation, making storytelling more engaging for all children.



HIRE BIRMINGHAM'S BIGGEST SCREEN

SCAN ME
TO
LEARN
MORE



MILLENNIUMPOINT.ORG.UK/AUDITORIUM

Accommodating up to 354 delegates, our AUDITORIUM is the perfect location for conferences, lectures, product launches, AGM's, award ceremonies and film screenings. Featuring a 30m2 stage and a giant screen, this space is perfect for making a big impression.



354 tiered seats with clear sight lines



14m x 8m screen with up to 4K projection



Hybrid event and live streaming capabilities



City centre location



**David
& Co.**

Because in business, there's always a Goliath.

Davidand.co

The Directors' Award and Innovation in Business

Innovation is crucial for business success. It drives growth, allows companies to differentiate themselves and meet changing consumer demands. Innovation solves global challenges and ensures we make better use of people's talents and the resources available.

One of the main benefits of innovation is its ability to enhance efficiency and productivity. By introducing new technologies, processes, or products, businesses can streamline operations, reduce costs, and increase output.

Innovation opens new opportunities for growth and market expansion. By continuously improving existing offerings or developing new ones, companies can capture new customer segments, enter previously untapped markets, and increase revenue streams. Disruptive innovations have completely transformed traditional business models, creating entirely new industries and consumer behaviours.

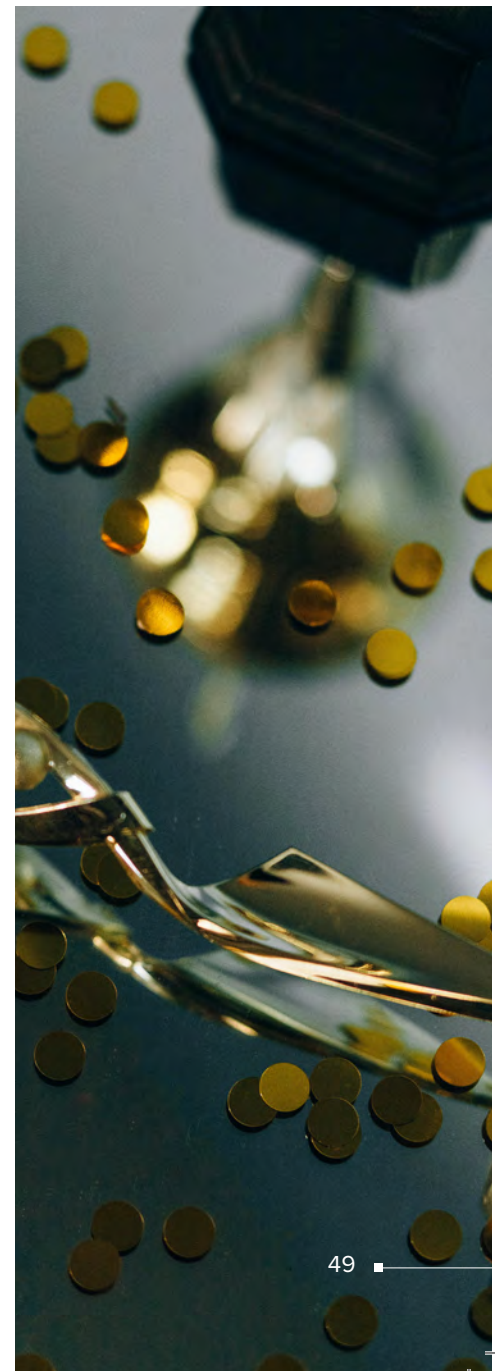
Innovation fosters a culture of creativity and problem-solving within an organisation. It encourages employees to think outside the box, collaborate, and develop solutions to complex challenges. This can lead to higher employee engagement, job satisfaction, and retention, as workers feel empowered to contribute to the company's evolution.

Companies that embrace innovation as a core part of their strategy are better positioned to stay competitive, maintain their market share, and capitalise on emerging trends. Thus, innovation is not just a differentiator but a necessity for long-term business success.

It is clear that innovation is alive and thriving in the UK. We are a nation of thinkers, doers, and creators, pushing the boundaries of what is possible. But as we look to the future, we must continue to be bold, collaborative, and responsible in our pursuit of progress.

Let us ensure that the UK remains at the forefront of global innovation, driving technological advancements that not only fuel economic growth but also address the world's most pressing challenges.

The Directors' Award celebrates the business, organisation or individual who has made an outstanding contribution to innovation.



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Innovations From Birmingham



The Postal System



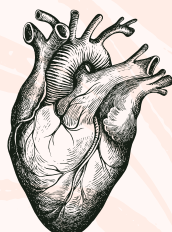
The Lunar Society



Pen Nibs



The Football League



The Pacemaker



The Electric Kettle



The Whistle



Cluedo

*“There’s a way to do it better. Find it.”**

Thomas Edison (1847 – 1931), Inventor

Oxbridge

Oxbridge.uk

**Baskerville Typeface*



- Strategic Trusts
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- Legacy Planning
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53 Davies Street, Mayfair, London, W1K 5JH - Telephone: 01246 293015

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The Judges

Each of the Innovation Awards is judged against five key criteria by an independent panel of three judges. We are delighted to have had the support of these brilliant individuals in deciding the highly commended and winners from our amazing finalists. Once again, the judges were very impressed by the high quality of the finalists and had a difficult choice to make. Many thanks to them all for their hard work.



Andy Wilkinson

Andy Wilkinson is founder & MD of OWB Creative, Chair for the Institute of Directors, Birmingham and Marketing Leader of the Year 2023 winner at the inaugural Midlands Marketing Awards.



Jude Pearson

Jude is the Director of Engagement, Enterprise and Innovation at Birmingham City University.



Ian Ward

Ian has been a Birmingham City Council Councillor since 1995. As Leader of the Council, he led Birmingham through a cost-of-living crisis, pandemic and delivered the greatest ever Commonwealth Games.



Henry Carpenter

Henry is the Editor of Birmingham Business magazine, PR consultant and a director of Wiggly Worm Media which publishes Shropshire Business magazine.



Jeremy Dale

Jeremy is the Executive Vice Chair for Birmingham City Football Club Foundation, CEO of Punk Rock Business, a public speaker and author of The Punk Rock of Business.



Prof Gino Martini

Gino is the CEO of the Precision Health Technologies Accelerator, former Chief Scientist at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and is focused on helping life sciences SMEs.



Johnathan Dudley

Johnathan leads Crowe's Midlands South West business, heads national SME corporate business and sponsors a KTP to digitise audit.



Joanna Birch

Jo is the founder of GROWTHINNK Associates- an innovation consultancy, skilled in strategy development, programme management, policy making and leadership.



Naomi Nash

With 10 year's experience supporting tech startups, Naomi is Head of Community & Collaboration at TechWM helping to connect, amplify and transform the West Midlands tech sector.



Jon Gamble

Jon is a Senior Innovation & Growth Advisor at Innovate UK, Strategic Board Advisor, Non-Executive Director and CEO of MLE Technologies.



Jamie Naish

Jamie is the Executive Director of Recruitment, Finance & Technology at SPR. His role is driving talent acquisition and innovation in finance and tech.



Raaj Shamji

Raaj is the Head of Public and Community Engagement at BCU, an Events Personality and a Toastmaster/ Master of Ceremonies.



Wing Commander Robert Williams

Wing Commander Robert Williams is the Air Regional Employer Engagement Officer for the West Midlands. Wing Commander Williams brings valuable insights into the defence sector.



Jon Williams

Jon is a Senior Director at Ryan. He has broad expertise in the identification, procurement and management of non-dilutive funding, particularly grant and tax reliefs for SMEs.



Rachel Eade MBE

Rachel provides huge support to the manufacturing sector and its networks by initiating and contributing to innovative solutions to the problems of the day.



Lt Col Duncan Southall

Lt Col Duncan Southall is the Employer Engagement Officer for the Army. Lt Col Southall has also served as a Chief Inspector for Nottinghamshire Police.



Matt Jones

Matt is an award-winning founder and leader of the online college, Oxbridge, and the Hello World Group.



Dr. Paul Milne

Paul is the Deputy Director of SME Engagement for Warwick Manufacturing Group at the University of Warwick.



Pam Waddell OBE

Pam is the Director of the Innovation Alliance for the West Midlands and Chair of Venturefest, West Midlands.



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du Vin
& Bistro

HAPPY HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY | 3:00PM-7:00PM

£8 EACH

All Champagne cocktails | 2 bottles of Vedett
125ml glass of house Champagne

Buy 2 large glasses of wine by the glass and
receive the rest of the bottle complimentary

Add Oysters Rockefeller for £3 each

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175ml glass of house wine, pint of beer or soft drink

Please ask your server
& brighten up your day

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
RATATOUILLE & CHICKPEA PANCAKES [VGI]	CONFIT DUCK CASSOULET	MOULES MARINIÈRE & FRITES	STEAK HACHÉ	LEFFE FISH & CHIPS* *£5 Supp	ROAST POULET NOIR* *£12 Supp	ROAST SIRLOIN OF BEEF

Bistro du Vin

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A BOTTLE OF MALBEC
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FORMULE

3 COURSES SERVED
WITHIN 30 MINUTES

Monday-Sunday
Lunch (*EXCLUDING SUNDAY LUNCH)
Early Dinner (5:00pm-7:00pm)

CELERIAC REMOULADE

SCHNITZEL

Chicken or halloumi [V]

GNOCCHI À LA PARISIENNE

CRÈME BRÛLÉE

£19.95

Includes 175ml glass of house wine,
pint of beer or soft drink

PRIX FIXE

MONDAY-SUNDAY
LUNCH *EXCLUDING SUNDAY LUNCH.
EARLY DINNER (5:00PM-7:00PM)

2 COURSES £19.95, 3 COURSES £24.95

CURRIED PARSNIP SOUP

CHICKEN LIVER PARFAIT

SEVERN & WYE SMOKED SALMON

SPICED PICKLED BEETROOT & STILTON SALAD

SCHNITZEL Chicken or halloumi [V]

GNOCCHI À LA PARISIENNE

FILLET OF SEA BASS

SALADE MAISON Chicken, tiger prawns or halloumi

CRÈME BRÛLÉE

"ORIADO" VALRHONA CHOCOLATE TERRINE

GLACES ET SORBETS

ASSIETTE DE FROMAGE

SUNDAY LUNCH

A BRITISH INSTITUTION

Dating back to King Henry VII, meats were
traditionally roasted in front of a fire on a Sunday.
Since the 15th century, the royal bodyguards
have been known as 'Beefeaters' because of their
love of roast beef. In the 18th century the
French started calling Englishmen 'rosbifs'.

Our Sunday 'rosbif' starts with a choice of
appetisers from our French Market Table,
followed by a traditional Roast du Vin or choice
of Plat Principaux and finally a delicious Dessert.

2 COURSES £29.95 | 3 COURSES £34.95



Prices from £29.95 per person

£40.95 with a glass of Champagne

AFTERNOON TEA

Join us and all of fashionable society
to sip tea and nibble on sandwiches
in the middle of the afternoon.

With a fine selection of finger
sandwiches, cakes and scones
with jam and clotted cream.

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**80 years of service to
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DINNER | CEREMONY | ENTERTAINMENT

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Awards/2024

Technology
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