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Published by MA Business

MA Business, Hawley Mill, Hawley Road,  
Dartford, Kent, DA2 7TJ



## WAVING THE FLAG FOR EXCELLENCE

When I tell people that I work on a publication that champions the UK's manufacturing industry, a look of intense confusion usually falls over their faces.

"But we don't make stuff over here any more," they say. "What is there to champion?" And, if you look at some of the evidence, they may have a point.

We've gone from the world's biggest manufacturer to eighth place, our economy is now dominated by the services industry, which accounts for 80% of output, and many of the historic industrial names are either shutting up shop or moving elsewhere.

Added to that are some sobering statistics from the Chartered Institute of Credit Management's UK Credit Managers' Index. The index, which measures the levels of credit being sought and granted across the UK, has seen manufacturing confidence fall by over 10 points in Q3 of 2017 – the biggest drop of any industry.

Maybe those pessimistic voices were right after all...

And yet, on the other hand, there's you, our 2017 Manufacturing Champions. You are all proof that the UK is still an industrial powerhouse. Represented in these pages are everything from global corporations to small, bespoke operations, from all areas of industry – all united by the same thing: excellence.

You are the flag-wavers for British manufacturing, the ones who should be set on a pedestal as an example for companies both here and abroad. Government ministers should be falling over themselves to visit you, see the good work organisations like yours are doing, and understand how others can learn from you.

Perhaps more importantly, you are on the frontline against the biggest threat to industry in this country. I'm not talking about automation, or the economy, or even Brexit. No, it's a crippling lack of skills. If people believe that we don't make anything in this country, or that manufacturing is a dirty, boring job, then why would they even entertain the thought of starting a career in it?

In every town and city across the UK, manufacturing takes place right under people's noses, with the public passing the gates to the factory every day and not paying it a second thought – without stopping to think about what goes on inside those four walls, what all the chimneys and pipework are for, what the lorries shuttling in and out are delivering. That's not a healthy situation to be in.

We need to be proud of, and shout about, what manufacturing is all about. This is an industry that's changing, with the Fourth Industrial Revolution on its way, Brexit looming large and a chronic disinterest from the general public. I call on you, then, as the *crème de la crème* of the industry, to start the fightback. Demonstrate your innovation, teamwork and loyalty to the cause, and the whole industry will benefit. You're in a unique position to provide a different view of manufacturing, and help guide it through a potentially challenging future.



**CHRIS BECK**

*Editor, Manufacturing Management*



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UK FACTORY OF THE YEAR





# EMPLOYEE-LED INNOVATION AWARD

WINNER

**Philip Edwards**

process operator, Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems

As the saying goes, cleanliness is next to godliness, and, at Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems in Broadstairs, this rings especially true. Any spillages and splashes can cause cross-contamination between batches of ink and lengthen crossover times between them.

At the plant, the main culprits for splashing were the semi-automated 'lances' on the filling lines. The lances were proving such a problem that each cycle of four five-litre bottles was taking over 33 seconds to fill, at a pump speed of just 37RPM. Any faster than that, and the level of splashing caused delays across the entire factory.

Phil Edwards, a process operator at the plant, took it upon himself to fix this issue. He quickly realised that the secret to a splash-free production line was to sink the lances below the level of the ink as it rose up the bottles. Some further experimentation with flow-rates completely eliminated splashing on the line.

Calling on support from the plant's engineering team, Phil worked diligently on his idea, even during lunch breaks, to modify the nozzles on the lances. As word of his idea spread, other operators got involved, lending their support and input to the project. All of the testing and experimentation took place while the plant was active, with no missed orders or customer complaints.

Not only has Phil's modification eliminated any risk of cross-contamination, it has also significantly improved process time on the filling lines. The pump speed could be increased to 50RPM, which gave a predicted fill time of 29.5 seconds – a 12.5% improvement. However, Phil wasn't finished there. He worked with Autoline, the suppliers of the machinery, to re-programme the software to experiment with fill flow rates, lance and nozzle control, and pump speed. This meant he could optimise the settings for different batches and products.

Phil used 20 batches to help verify his ideas, and the figures speak for themselves: sixty readings were taken, and the average fill time across them was just under 26.5 seconds – a 21.8% reduction in time taken. This added up to a six-minute saving per tonne of finished product. Each Autoline has a daily output of, on average, five tonnes, meaning half an hour can be saved, per line, per day. An extra 130 bottles, or 650kg of product, can now be packaged per shift, which across the 240 days the plant operates over a year adds up to 156 tonnes of finished product per year.

Phil met his brief – to reduce spillage and eliminate contamination – through hard work, and his scientific approach to the task has also led to an increase in the plant's productivity. A shining example of employee-led innovation.

## FINALISTS

**Manufacturing Technology Roadmap Team,**  
*Siemens Congleton*

**Maria Galica,**  
manufacturing shift manager, Alpen Production Team, *Weetabix Food Company*

**Will Haynes,**  
engineering manager, **Paul Hall,** innovation engineer, and **Andy Hubbard,** engineering technician, *Delarue Currency*

**Richard Draper,**  
production manager, and **Pete Dabell,**  
assistant production manager, *He-Man Dual Controls*

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“Philip demonstrated an extremely relevant and innovative solution to a significant issue within the company, which not only fixed the problem but also delivered strong bottom-line results”*

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# MANUFACTURING TEAM AWARD

## WINNER

### Waste Reduction Team, Deb Ltd

Waste is a dirty word in manufacturing. For Derby-based skincare specialists Deb Ltd, though, it became a challenge. Back in 2010, the company had just moved into a new, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. As part of this, they dreamt up a bold vision: one where every employee, across all departments, had the ability to visualise the process flow and be able to fix any issues without the need for management intervention.

A key part of this vision was for a cross-functional 'waste reduction' team, who would liaise with the manufacturing teams throughout the company. The job of these waste-busters would be to implement a lean system across the organisation. And their job wasn't a small one: in 2016, they were set a bold target of a reduction of £50,000 in material costs.

The make-up of the team was crucial. Having too many skills in one area but not enough in another would be detrimental to its success. Deb turned to the Belbin system to identify the various personality types and ensure the appropriate team members were recruited to the waste reduction cause.

A successful team is more than the sum of its parts. This was certainly the case with Deb. Hierarchy went out of the window, and everyone bonded together to work to the same goal. After some initial brainstorming sessions, the team ranked the five biggest waste reduction

opportunities – chief amongst which was the need to reduce product overfill. The team realised that the average overfill of product across the factory's 12 lines, was 1.73% – which added up to around £118,000 per year in extra raw material costs.

A major saving had been identified; the challenge now was how to implement it. The waste reduction team worked with the company's IT providers to look at ways of better monitoring the data being produced on the lines. Previously, the figures were being crunched by hand, which had led to mistakes being made and corners being cut by shopfloor operatives. After the IT upgrades, operatives were able to easily determine whether any overfill was taking place.

The results have been massive. Overfill rates plummeted from 1.73% to 0.35%, which added up to a raw materials saving of over £86k per year. By not manufacturing an extra 370,000 litres of product per year because of this reduction in overfill, an extra 2% of manufacturing capacity has opened up at the plant.

The Waste Reduction Team not only hit their target of £50k in savings, they smashed it. Their combined efforts have helped save the company three-quarters of a million pounds – an unimaginable figure that stands them out as our Manufacturing Team of the Year.

## FINALISTS

**Alpen  
Manufacturing Team,  
Weetabix**

**Alba Production Team,  
The Glenmorangie  
Company**

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“The egalitarian nature of this entry is to be commended - the fact that everyone pulled together, regardless of their position in the company, to make an incredible saving of £750,000, is outstanding”*

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Coca-Cola PET Lines,** Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company



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# SKILLS & COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

WINNER

**Ian Green,**

senior controller GTC UK & Nissan Skills Foundation, Nissan

Nissan's flagship plant in Sunderland is surrounded by a significant number of areas classified as 'high deprivation'. The Nissan Skills Foundation (NSF) was set up and developed by Ian to bridge the growing gap between the demands of Nissan and its supply base and the skills, abilities and desire of school leavers to find careers in manufacturing and engineering.

The NSF is a huge departure from the normal business of making cars and is set up to actively engage with schools children of all ages. The foundation offers innovative unique classroom lessons and engagement events based upon the needs of schools.

The programme's approach is to remove barriers and to raise aspirations and understanding of the opportunities and increase engagement with STEM subjects, using everything from motorsports to electric vehicles to inspire children.

The NSF started with 136 learners in pilot year and now engages 8,000+ students each

year, enabling all students of all vulnerabilities and backgrounds to engage. There has also been a number of major benefits from his work, such as high-profile VIP visits.

Ian Green has been appointed the Industrial Skills lead for School Engagement within the North East Automotive alliance which represents 300 businesses in the region. It has allowed the programme to work with nine disabled schools and colleges, who would otherwise not have been able to engage with Nissan, and this has given nearly 530 disabled students the opportunity to attend sessions.

Within Nissan Europe, the Skills Foundation is also providing training and equipment that will allow the company to roll out sessions developed in the UK to Saint Petersburg in Russia, Barcelona in Spain and Romania.

Ian and NSF are doing great work to inspire those from all backgrounds, in a highly deprived area, and for this reason he is a worthy recipient of this year's Skills & Community Champion award.

## FINALISTS

**Claire Long,**  
MOS manager, *Teesside Beam Mill – British Steel*

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“The extent of the outreach to such a large number of children is a phenomenal effort to inspire the next generation. Now reaching outside of the UK, the programme is extremely broad-reaching and for all walks of society.”*

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Jim Wallace,** Arconic Manufacturing (GB) Ltd (Kitts Green location)



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# SAFE WORKPLACE CHAMPION AWARD

## WINNER

### Fraser Rankine

health and safety officer, Farne Salmon & Trout Ltd

Christmas is an exciting time of year for everyone. But, when it comes to business, the build-up to the holiday season can be a busy period, and it's no different for Farne Salmon and Trout, located in the Borders of Scotland. December 2014 was a particularly tough year for the company, reflected in the number of accidents on-site.

Fraser looked deeper into the cause and noticed a trend where the majority were recorded as 'Struck Against Stationary Objects' – something he considered to be reactionary accidents to working under intense pressure. To add more evidence to his case, in 2014 a third of these accidents occurred in December.

Pressure leading to stress and subsequently accidents wasn't easily recognised within departments, people tried to carry out tasks quicker, took less time to look after their area, paid less attention to their surroundings and worked in different departments from normal.

Fraser highlighted this from the data recorded and has worked tirelessly to reduce the number of accidents within the business, particularly at peak production times and times of change. He has spent more time in production areas, working with the people, understanding what the pressures are and considering together the ways these could be reduced.

The following year, in the build up to peak season, health awareness sessions were provided, which centred around understanding

and recognising the signs of stress. Recruitment processes were also reconsidered and introduced earlier to better manage and support the integration of new people into the business. Relaxation opportunities were provided weekly through the provision of a massage therapist.

From the 10 accidents at Christmas and eight lost-time accidents that year that had been caused by 'Struck Against Stationary Objects', the figures dropped to one in December 2015.

What's more, Fraser continues to apply the principles of tackling root causes for accidents, considering high impact times in the business and the education, support and information required to keep accidents low.

Massage sessions are now provided twice a week, along with in-house yoga; Fraser has also trained all managers in Mentally Healthy Workplaces. A new company-wide production process has also been introduced and, although a business decision, this implementation was fully supported by Fraser, who saw that by slowing the process down and ensuring everyone understands their role step-by-step, the level of stress – and subsequently the number of accidents – would reduce.

Fraser's people skills and approach to health and safety are what makes him stand out as an inspirational figure and a true Safe Workplace Champion. He has a very holistic view of health and safety, and gives due consideration to the individual, the teams and the company.

## FINALISTS

**Lee Dale,**  
operations manager, *PEME*

**Rajdeep Singh,**  
Step-Up team leader,  
*Weetabix Food Company*  
(*Alpen Factory*)

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“Fraser demonstrated a structured approach to solving a critical problem of lost-time accidents in the company's busiest period, going deeper than just the baseline figures and looking at the wider psychological impacts. Mental health and stress are sadly often overlooked in this industry, and as a result we were delighted to see Fraser's commitment to these issues.”*

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## RISING STAR AWARD

WINNER

**Kodi Gledhill**

engineering apprentice, Coca-Cola European Partners Ltd

Driven by her proactive attitude and eagerness to learn, Kodi has - in a very short time on-site - made a noticeable impact on several key projects at Coca-Cola European Partners Great Britain's (CCEP) Wakefield site.

Now in her second year at CCEP, Kodi works up to four days a week, taking part in different placements across various parts of the factory so that she can gain as much exposure to different areas of the business as possible. However, beyond her day-to-day role, one issue that Kodi is particularly passionate about is encouraging more young people to consider careers in manufacturing.

Last year, alongside her father - who has worked at Wakefield since 1994 - Kodi took part in the business' regional advertising campaign, 'Made Locally', which celebrates CCEP's heritage as a local business and offered first-hand insight from the duo on what it is like to work for a global brand, based locally in Wakefield. One of the main reasons Kodi wanted to participate in the initiative was to help increase awareness amongst other young people of the different routes into work such as apprenticeships.

She also featured in a regional advertising campaign run by Wakefield College, which aimed to encourage young people in the local area to consider apprenticeships.

Of the students involved from Wakefield College, Kodi was the only female engineering apprentice. She also visits local schools to share her experiences and what she has been able to learn during her placement.

Going above and beyond her role doesn't stop there. Kodi has also taken part in an automation project on one of the manufacturing lines. This was her first major electrical project on-site, at which point she had not yet completed her module on motors and inverters.

She took it upon herself to research the different applications of inverters, how they work in conjunction with motors, and their different benefits. Kodi then made the recommendation to swap the component that was already in use with an inverter, allowing the team to have greater control of the speed and voltage of the motor that was running, and maintain greater control of the overall system.

Kodi worked closely with the senior engineering team in the planning, designing and execution of the project, which helped to reduce air loss and save over 70 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as well as around £14,000 in energy costs over four years.

After learning the importance of sustainable manufacturing through this project, Kodi is now leading on various other projects that identify solutions to reduce energy waste and improving efficiencies on site, including an air leak project that she is managing with other apprentices across the factory.

Overall, Kodi has impressed her peers with her hardworking attitude and was named the Wakefield College Level 3 Apprentice of the Year in 2016 for her outstanding work to date. She is a worthy Rising Star Champion and a great ambassador for getting more women and young people into manufacturing.

### FINALISTS

**Darren Degraff,**  
assistant planner, *TSP Engineering*

**Jack Pointer,**  
machining apprentice, *Oxford Engineering*

**Ryan Meierhofer,**  
apprentice, *PEME*

### JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“Kodi is an excellent ambassador for women in engineering and showcasing engineering apprenticeships. She shows flair, commitment, drive and enthusiasm to support the company and her colleagues, and provides more to the company than her apprenticeship role profile suggests.”*

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Daniel Blake,** mechanical assembly engineer *TrakRap Limited*





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# MAINTENANCE AWARD

## WINNER

**Business Unit 2 Maintenance Team,**  
Alpen & Weetabix Minis (Weetabix Food Company)

It's the age-old conundrum: how to keep your plant up and running, without having to take assets offline to do so.

For the Weetabix Business Unit 2 Maintenance Team, this was proving to be a major headache. Over 80% of maintenance tasks had to be carried out while the plant was offline, which added complexities across the entire site.

As many of the offline tasks had to be moved across to online as possible – but how?

The answer came in the shape of new technologies, and a more proactive approach to maintenance. For instance, the team invested in a thermographic camera, which allowed them to monitor the temperature of the equipment in real-time.

Similarly, a vibration tool has meant they are able to detect excessive movement in machines down to the nearest millimetre, all of which provides data from which patterns and conclusions can be drawn.

This culture towards maintenance has also been taken up by the production team,

who have learnt how to undertake small maintenance tasks by themselves. This has freed up time for the maintenance team to work on more maintenance ideas. The production team have also been taught how to spot any potential signs of damage, or listen out for sounds that are out-of-the-ordinary. This is all part of Weetabix's wider strategy, called Performance through People, which aims to empower people across all areas of the business to become focused on productivity and performance.

The amount of data generated by the maintenance team has been invaluable to the new approach.

The 80% of tasks being performed during shutdown has fallen to just 20%, and daily operations review meetings are called to monitor how many preventative maintenance tasks the team have completed on time and how many are in backlog.

A shining example of how teamwork and technology can come together to create tangible and impressive results.

## FINALISTS

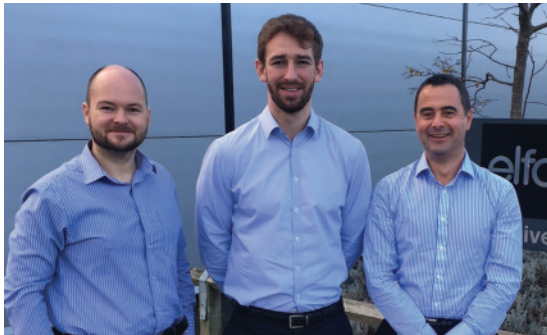
**Barry Parsons,**  
CI facilitator,  
*Entek International*

**Glass Bottling Hall  
Maintenance Team,**  
Hanworth Dairy,  
Milk&More, *PEME*

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“We are especially impressed by the team's use of KPIs and policy deployment, as well as how they collaborated with the site's production team to ensure they are able to undertake maintenance without shutting down the production lines”*





# SME INNOVATORS AWARD

## WINNER

### OEM Sales & Engineering

Elfab Ltd

Proving that size doesn't matter are the winners of our inaugural SME Innovators Award, Elfab Ltd. As manufacturers of pressure relief systems for both end users and OEMs in a number of industries, ranging from oil & gas to cryogenics, their products can be found in over 70 countries across the globe – all achieved with a team of just 65 people.

Working with large, blue-chip organisations, many items are tailor-made for specific applications. Elfab's technologically advanced factory is also able to deliver large volumes and complex devices to a range of customers.

In a market that sees constantly changing customer and regulatory demands, innovation has to be at the heart of Elfab's operations. The company's response to one recent challenge is what caught the attention of our judges.

The company were asked to create a pressure relief valve for a diesel engine, which relies on highly compressed air to ignite fuel, rather than a spark plug. This part was relatively simple: the company already produced an explosion panel that met the criteria. However, the customer also stipulated that the panel could not let any heat escape during operation. This, as it turned out, was more of a challenge.

Elfab's sales and engineering team sprang into action. A clear plan was put in place, which took into account the cost, resources and staff

development needed to fulfil the product on time and within budget.

A vital part through the entirety of the product's development process was close communication with the customer, who visited Elfab's head office in South Shields to speak about the application in detail. The company even took the bold step to invest in a space-age material called Aerogel, which resulted in a product that was low in density and had excellent thermal conductivity.

After a prolonged period of research and experimentation, including with the thickness of the Aerogel layer, Elfab soon created the perfect product for the customer, who have also seen benefits from Elfab's expert advice in product aftercare.

Due to its design and the company's strong supply chain and manufacturing facilities, Elfab were able to offer the product a whole seven weeks faster than any competitor – an advantage that has seen them win two of the largest explosion panel orders in the company's history, taking business from another company. The development of the explosion panel has seen Elfab offer not just a product, but an end-to-end customer solution.

Evidence that clear communication, good ideas and hard work are no barrier to success, no matter the size of the organisation.

## FINALISTS

**Handrail Creations Ltd**

**Reliability Team,  
PEME**

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“Elfab are a small company with a big vision, and their customer-focused approach to this project demonstrates clearly their understanding of how innovation assists with the creation of wealth within the business”*





## UNsung HERO AWARD

### WINNER

**John Dawson,**

production planning manager, Fogarty (Filled Products) Ltd

Here's a tale that is sure to bring you out in a cold sweat. It's the height of summer 2017 at Fogarty Filled Products in Boston, Lincolnshire, and the company's entire purchasing team are suddenly taken with various long-term sicknesses. For a firm with over 1,000 different products across 19 different manufacturing lines, this has the potential to be a disaster.

However, in times of crisis, every company needs a hero. In Fogarty's case, this came in the shape of John Dawson. In his day job, John is the company's planning manager, responsible for scheduling every pillow, duvet, mattress protector, cot bed and cushion that the factory produces. If that wasn't already enough, he also liaises with the company's operations and sales teams, ensuring that the factory's capacity is properly planned.

More than enough to keep anyone busy, you would think. Not in John's case, though. When

the void appeared in the purchasing team, John took it upon himself to take on the role of the absent staff members, stepping up to the plate to source all the fabrics and fibre fillings, feather and threads, packaging and labels that are needed to keep the plant running.

With no experience of purchasing, he taught himself 'on the fly' about the intricate details of the job, all while still running the planning team. Added to this, about six weeks into his unofficial new role, John began training an external purchasing supplier to help out and take over part of the role. From nothing, John has become the company's purchasing expert. Even today, he is still performing both his job in planning and his adopted role in purchasing.

John was entered for this award in secret, so hopefully this success will have come as a pleasant surprise to 2017's Unsung Hero. Congratulations, John.

### FINALISTS

**Paul Varty,**  
condition monitoring  
manager, *PEME*

**Martin McGrother,**  
slab yard team member,  
*British Steel*

**Kelsey Dobbs,**  
colourist, *A Schulman Inc*

**Michael Hooper,**  
continuous improvement  
facilitator, *Entek  
International*

**Julie Tasker,**  
project engineer, *Steeper*

**Mike Nichols,**  
technical operative, Alpen  
Manufacturing Team,  
*Weetabix Food Company*

### JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“The planning manager is typically one of the most demanding roles on any site. To be able to take over, at short notice, the purchasing activities as well would be a stretch too far for most. On top of that, to be able develop expertise in the area, to the extent of becoming the company's 'go-to guy', is the very definition of an Unsung Hero.”*



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# MANUFACTURING LEADER AWARD

## WINNER

**Kenny Macfarlane,**

managing director, Handrail Creations Ltd

Starting a new company is never easy. Bespoke wood manufacturers Handrail Creations Ltd, based in Bolton, however, are doing their best to make it look like it is.

Kenny Macfarlane, the winner of this year's Manufacturing Leader Award, has overseen a period of growth that has seen this small company go from a standing start to £1.2m of turnover in just three years.

Often, success stories of this nature are tempered by cost-cutting and clever accounting. Under Kenny's stewardship, however, Handrail Creations has invested heavily in new machinery, including a state-of-the-art CNC machine that was custom-built in Italy.

This has allowed quality to improve, and lead times to be reduced from ten weeks to just five – which in turn has brought yet more contracts, from clients including Google, Apple and Hugo Boss, along with luxury house builders and

shopping centres. The company run around 50 projects simultaneously, ranging from £2,000 to over £75,000.

Despite this, Handrail Creations remains small, with just 15 staff, including two apprentices, and an additional 10 self-employed subcontractors. However, the team are very tight-knit, with Kenny hosting regular team-bonding activities, such as barbecues. The company also have regular 'free days', where the team can use the workshop and the machinery to let their creativity run wild and create whatever takes their fancy.

Kenny isn't stopped here, either. He hopes to expand into a 10,000ft<sup>2</sup> factory, up from 6,000ft<sup>2</sup> now, and continue to invest in CNC machinery. At the heart of the company, however, remains the team – a close-knit, egalitarian group, led by Kenny's focus on his staff, quality and investment.

## FINALISTS

**Richard Draper,**  
production manager,  
*He-Man Dual Controls*

**Beverley Ford,**  
managing director,  
*Rota Val Ltd*

## JUDGES' COMMENTS

*“Kenny's success in building a successful company is admirable, as is his commitment to, and belief in, his staff. The fact that Handrail Creations can list major international brands amongst their customers is testament to the work Kenny has put in”*





## JUDGEMENT DAY

*With red pens at the ready, a panel of senior manufacturing managers and industry leaders met at The Society of Operations Engineers in London this October to decide who would be our Champions winners. This year's judges were:*



**Chris Beck**  
**editor, *Manufacturing Management***

As part of the team that has introduced the new-look *Manufacturing Management*, Chris is keen to position the magazine as the leading voice for UK manufacturing. He is particularly passionate about preparing manufacturers for the challenges of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.



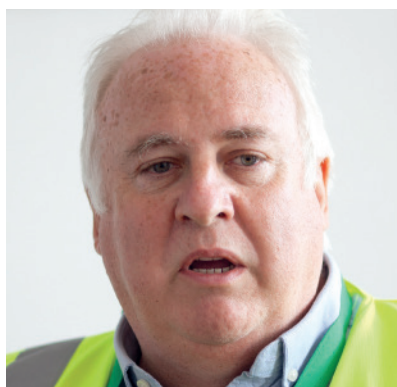
**Dr David Baglee**  
**reader, *University of Sunderland***

David has experience of managing several European and UK government-funded projects looking at maintenance in the automotive, marine and food & drink sectors, including OPTFEST, a DTL project into increasing profitability in food processing.



**Gary Burgess**  
**plant manager, *Fujifilm SIS***

Gary is the winner of our 2016 Community Champion Award. On a crusade to open people's minds to the exciting career opportunities manufacturing holds, Gary is a great advocate for our industry and his energy and enthusiasm shine through.



**John Coughlan**  
**operations director, *TSP Engineering***

Under John's leadership, Cumbria-based TSP Engineering scooped two gongs at last year's Manufacturing Champions Awards, including the Manufacturing Leader prize for John himself. The site has seen its fortunes change dramatically since John took over in 2014 from making a £1.5m loss to a £2m profit in just two years.



**Jon Evans**  
**head of operations, *BAE Systems***

Jon's role at BAE Systems' Samlesbury site, near Preston, is to ensure the on-time delivery of the aft, vertical and horizontal tails of the F-35 Lightning II fighter jet. The site is challenged with producing one aircraft per day in two years' time – in effect, halving the cost and quadrupling the rate of production.



**Emma Harbottle**  
**operations director, *Analox***

Emma has been at Analox since 2006, and is in charge of the management of all operational functions and staff including manufacturing, purchasing, stock and repairs. Under Emma's tenure, Analox has won Best Factory Awards for operational excellence. Analox specialise in the manufacture of a range of gas detection solutions.



**Rob Love**  
*site manager, City Technology*

Rob manages the award-winning Portsmouth site of City Technology, which was crowned BFA Factory of the Year in 2014, having joined City Technology in 1993 and holding numerous roles since. He started his career with Portsmouth Aviation as an apprentice in the 1980s.



**Samantha Nicholson**  
*head of manufacturing, Business Growth Hub*

Before joining the Business Growth Hub, a Manchester-based organisation that provides business support, Sam spent 11 years working at ENWORKS. She played a key role in building the service into an internationally recognised example of best practice in environmental business support.



**Tim Monaghan**  
*European president, Diodes Incorporated*

Tim leads a workforce of around 500 employees, encompassing sales, business development and manufacturing operations. He has 31 years' experience working across a spectrum of roles in the semiconductor industry for Phillips, NXP, Zetex and more latterly Diodes Incorporated.



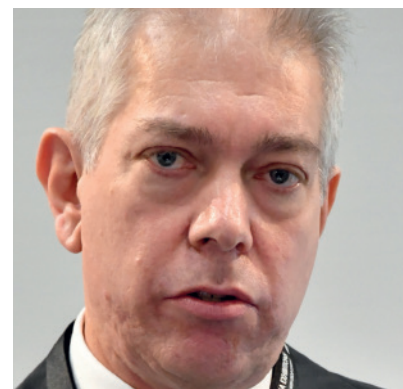
**Adam Offord**  
*deputy editor, Manufacturing Management*

Adam has been on the *Manufacturing Management* editorial team for 12 months, and has shown an affinity with all things industry. He's a major supporter of schemes that look to encourage young people into manufacturing, and has led school visits to factory sites in an attempt to inspire the next generation.



**Alan Purvis**  
*managing director, Mettler Toledo Safeline*

Alan heads up Mettler Toledo Safeline, a global leader in RF spectrometers, supplying inline product inspection solutions to food and pharmaceutical producers. The company exports 95% of its production. Two-thirds of its business is products, and one third aftermarket services with sales/service operations in over 35 countries.



**Trevor Stacey**  
*operations director, CCEP Sidcup*

Trevor has worked at Coca-Cola European Partners since 2007, and is currently operations director at the company's Sidcup factory. He is responsible for the day-to-day running of the business' second-largest UK site, producing 42 million cases of drinks every year, with a team of around 280 employees.



## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

*Manufacturing Management would like to thank all of our sponsors who have got behind the cause of supporting the people whose pride and professionalism drive UK manufacturing excellence*



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Health and safety is everyone's responsibility. However, some individuals embrace it more than others and encourage health and safety engagement in their teams and across the wider organisation.

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Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems (FSIS) in Broadstairs, Kent, develops inkjet systems for wide format applications, for distribution through Fujifilm sales channels worldwide. UV inkjet inks are also developed and supplied to industrial and wide format OEMs directly.

The R&D team and manufacturing operations work together to optimise product performance, exploiting their unmatched understanding of ink chemistry, print applications, media, printheads and UV curing.

Inkjet ink production at FSIS is carried out in a process controlled, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. This recognises the equal importance of both the ink formulation and the production process, and provides controls over every aspect of manufacture

[www.fujifilm.eu/uk](http://www.fujifilm.eu/uk)



The UK's leading distributor of maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) products, Brammer offers added value services to help reduce working capital, improve production efficiency and reduce total acquisition cost including industrial vending service Invend™ and Insite™ – effectively a Brammer branch within a customer's site.

The company has an extensive portfolio of more than five million products and with sale and service centres nationwide and across the wider organisation.

We are delighted to be able to sponsor the Manufacturing Champions Awards for 2017, and in particular the Skills and Community Champion award, which recognises the importance of promoting the good work our industry does.

[www.brammer.co.uk](http://www.brammer.co.uk)



Sony UK Technology Centre in Pencoed, South Wales has been a supporter of the Manufacturing Champions Awards Scheme for some time. It presents a real opportunity to realise and share the incredible achievements, the talent, and the capability that UK manufacturing has offer.

We are delighted to sponsor the Employee-Led Innovation Award. Innovation is key to everything we do at our Sony UK Technology Centre and we are proud of our 100% innovation participation rate across our site.

Sony UK Technology Centre is a division of Sony Europe. The facility is a centre of excellence which houses a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant. It specialises in the manufacture of broadcast cameras.

[www.sonypencoed.co.uk](http://www.sonypencoed.co.uk)



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Our range of over 60,000 products includes leading hand tools, power tools, PPE and consumables, as well as Roebuck and Q-Safe brands, both available exclusively from Buck & Hickman.

We are delighted to be able to sponsor the Manufacturing Champions Awards for 2017, and in particular the Skills and Community Champion award, which recognises the importance of promoting the good work our industry does.

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At Swinton Business Insurance, we've been arranging business insurance for over ten years, and our experience tells us that no two businesses are exactly the same – even those in the same sector may have different cover requirements.

We understand that manufacturing relies heavily on lean processes and keeping downtime to a minimum. We also know that factors such as a damaged machine, staff absence, or a major incident such as a flood can be disastrous for your bottom line.

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# THE HALL OF FAME

The Manufacturing Champions Awards have been celebrating the best of UK manufacturing since 2014. The list below demonstrates the depth of talent within the industry – something we are proud to support

## 2014

### Manufacturing Leader

Kirsty Wainwright,  
NCT Leather

### Manufacturing Team

Scott Henniker and Eric Hitch,  
Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems

### Safe Workplace Champion

Peter Mircetic,  
Jaguar Land Rover

### Community Champion

Paul Sweeney,  
BAE Systems Naval Ships

### Employee-led Innovation

Tony McMullen,  
BAE Systems

### Unsung Hero

Alan Ridley,  
PepsiCo

### Rising Star

Richard Chambers,  
Jaguar Land Rover

## 2015

### Manufacturing Leader

Mick Straw,  
Hi-Technology Group

### Manufacturing Team

Alcoa Hydraulic Gap Control & Taper  
Rolling Implementation Team

### Safe Workplace Champion

Richard Heffernan,  
Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems

### Community Champion

Derrick Lewis,  
Schaeffler (UK)

### Employee-led Innovation

Will Haynes,  
De La Rue

### Unsung Hero

Gary Ashby,  
Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems

### Rising Star

Jacob Hoster,  
Carl Zeiss Microscopy

### Maintenance Team

Siemens Congleton

### Energy Champion

Ken Tidd,  
Alcoa Manufacturing GB

### Supply Chain Champion

Bryan Beck,  
Plastipak Packaging

## 2016

### Manufacturing Leader

John Coughlan,  
TSP Engineering

### Manufacturing Team

Strip & Clean Optimisation Team –  
Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems (UK)

### Safe Workplace Champion

Michael Vernal,  
A Schulman Inc

### Community Champion

Gary Burgess,  
Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems

### Employee-led Innovation

Christopher Hawes,  
Siemens Magnet Technology

### Unsung Hero

Stephanus Blignaut,  
PEME

### Rising Star: apprentice/trainee

Lee Suter,  
Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems

### Rising Star: manager

Hannah Ridley,  
TSP Engineering

### Maintenance

Lean RCM Team,  
Viridor

### Skills Champion

Paul Gemmell,  
BAE Systems Naval Ships

## 2017

### Manufacturing Leader

Kenny Macfarlane,  
Handrail Creations

### Manufacturing Team

Waste Reduction Team,  
DEB Ltd

### Safe Workplace Champion

Fraser Rankine,  
Farne Salmon & Trout

### Skills & Community Champion

Ian Green,  
Nissan Motor Manufacturing

### Employee-led Innovation

Philip Edwards,  
Fujifilm Speciality Ink Systems

### Unsung Hero

John Dawson,  
Fogarty Filled Products

### Rising Star

Kodi Gledhill,  
Coca-Cola European Partners

### Maintenance

Business Unit 2 Maintenance Team,  
Weetabix Food Company

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