

A unique industry, with unique companies and unique news

Elements

In this issue:

- **Chemicals Northwest 2020 Award winners**
- *Update on trade*
- *RS Clare - £1.6m Investment in Technical Centre to Fuel Innovation*
- *Digital Strategy Solutions*
- *Innovate and Collaborate with Lancaster University*
- *Plus many more articles and good news items from our members*



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Membership

Would your company benefit from joining an organisation that supports and promotes the chemistry-using sector in the Northwest? Do you want to understand more, and contribute to, the industry issues within the region?

If you are a manufacturer, chemical user or offer products and services to the sector, why not join us today? See over for details or please contact:

Alex Abraitis - Member services and events manager
alex.abraitis@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk or visit:
<https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/Membership/Benefits-Costs/>
2021 rates. (from 1st April 2020)

Micro corporate membership (1 - 10 employees)	£445+VAT
Standard corporate membership (11-100 employees)	£774+VAT
Large corporate membership (100+ employees)	£985+VAT

Our membership year runs from 1 April to 31 March. A pro-rata basis usually applies to joining at other times in the year and we'd be happy to discuss on application.

Welcome



Dear reader,

Ian and I hope that you are all keeping well. Times are still proving to be very uncertain for the country as a whole and particularly the North West! News of a breakthrough in the global pursuit of a vaccine was fantastic news for all of us. Hopefully, the other vaccines in development offer similar levels of efficacy and safety. At least we can say, with confidence, that we look forward to seeing you next year!

In this edition of Elements, we have focused on the Chemicals Northwest 2020 Award winners. Even though the dinner did not go ahead as planned in 2020 we were extremely pleased with the high calibre of award entries submitted. We wish to thank everyone who took time to submit a citation. Our sponsors and winners deserved recognition for their input and hard work leading up to the postponed dinner and I was delighted to visit some of the winning companies to hand deliver the trophies before stricter COVID restrictions were imposed. Others received their trophies by post. Regardless of whichever way the trophy was delivered, the winners were all well recognised for their hard work.

We have continued to host our monthly member briefings which have been valuable in sharing information throughout the pandemic. Focus now seems to be towards Brexit, UK REACH & EU REACH and the outcome of negotiations for the sector. We hosted an online breakfast networking event in October which was both well attended and received with five very interesting presentations covering a wide range of topics.

We have now launched the CNW Awards for 2021. I know that companies who operated throughout the pandemic will have incredible stories to share. Please fill out a citation and submit as early as you can. And good luck. As yet, uncertainty in the UK means we cannot guarantee an actual dinner will take place on the 25th March 2021. However, with technology being at the forefront of business we are considering plan B options of holding a virtual award ceremony and will keep you updated accordingly.

Also featured in this edition is an update on trade negotiations and Brexit, not to mention some excellent features contributed by member companies.

Please keep an eye on our website pages for events, news, industry updates and current Elements magazine - <https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/>

Wishing you all the best for the Christmas period. Take care, stay safe and look after those around you.

Alex Abraitis

Member Services and Events Manager

About us...

Chemicals Northwest is an established business network wholly owned by the Chemical Industries Association.

With around 160 members we actively promote this important regional sector and our objective is to help membership to grow through;

- **facilitating** networking events, common interest groups and interactive workshops, all aimed at covering topical industry issues.
- **supporting** projects and programmes that identify and enhance business performance and generally support continuous improvement across the sector.
- **promoting** science and engineering based skills, helping to address the region's future needs.
- **improving** the image of the industry overall, including generating a positive reputation, through communicating achievements and success.
- **contributing** to the industry's strategic voice and the national growth agenda aligned to the work of the Chemical Industries Association.
- **connecting** the community of chemistry-using businesses and the vital supply chains here in the Northwest.

Chemicals Northwest really does bring people together! It is an essential feature of successful networking strategies used by many organisations. We coordinate a range of meetings and events to enable 'face to face' networking for the benefit of all members. Every successful business networking organisation also needs effective communications channels.

As a result of gradual development over recent years, getting messages across, promoting member companies and reporting news, Chemicals Northwest has reached new levels of topicality and quality. Here are the the main features and benefits of membership...



Annual Awards Dinner - During the annual CNW awards programme we are privileged to witness the many achievements made in our local sector. Culminating in a great night of celebration each year's awards are a fantastic way your company can support the region's chemicals sector and help raise your own profile. Up to 300 guests from across the industry gather on the night and everyone can see for themselves the amazing achievements made by our people and organisations.

Partner events - Over the years CNW has focused on a range of highly topical and relevant business issues. We run these focussed events in conjunction with members. Technical, regulatory and operational insights have been delivered by experts in their fields. These events ensure good practices are shared and all attendees gain new knowledge. As businesses get to grips with the changing landscape there will always be new issues for members to analyse.



Breakfast Networking - Chemicals Northwest is gaining a growing reputation for high quality breakfast networking events. With no specific theme, delegates are encouraged to make new contacts and some will make short pitches about their company, its products and services plus news announcements! The breakfast meetings have proved to be very popular and currently run on a 2 monthly basis attracting an average of 40 people each time. New contacts can lead to new opportunities and new business. All are welcome.

Common Interest Groups - Chemicals Northwest's **REACH** group has followed closely the developments within this complex and long term piece of legislation. The initiative allows the sharing of experience, best practice and knowledge between manufacturing, supply chain and support service providers, all with a keen interest in REACH. The group meets three times a year and now has a membership of over 50 companies.

CNW started the **Brexit** user group straight after the referendum in 2016 and it is gaining more and more support from membership. Whilst there is still uncertainty, many businesses will be looking to the future impacts, so we are enabling all interested parties to meet and discuss in more detail their common issues and concerns. Up to date information, expert insights and reports form the basis of each agenda, which will run parallel to the national work carried out by CIA.

Elements magazine - CNW produces an informative quarterly magazine called Elements which contains the latest round up of member news, specialist features and 'spotlights' on new member companies. This is a great opportunity to establish an association between your organisation and important sector issues, by contributing free editorial and press releases. Companies who do business in the chemicals sector may also wish to look at advertising options. The CNW sector directory is now integrated into Elements.

Website - Visits to the CNW website have almost doubled in the past 12 months. The website is regularly updated with industry news and the events programme. Companies are increasingly using it for enquiries and advertising. There is an efficient "e-shot" function which allows direct messaging to our contacts list. Viewers of the directory pages can search the whole of our supply chain providers to find where to buy products and services.

LinkedIn - The Chemicals Northwest LinkedIn group has an ever increasing membership, with over 1500 members now connected. The group provides the opportunity for chemical industry professionals to share ideas and knowledge. There is also the CNW LinkedIn company page which provides a forum for information sharing between CNW and our members.

Twitter - The CNW Twitter account is growing, so to hear about the latest news from CNW and the wider sector, why not follow us. In addition we'd be happy to re-tweet any news or updates that members themselves tweet.



International Trade News

From 1 January 2021 the UK will be responsible for its own trade policy. But what does that mean and how will it impact on trade for Chemicals Northwest companies? In a short piece I cannot go into detail but Alex and I are very happy to engage directly with your team should you have questions or if clarification is required.

The UK left the EU in Jan 2020 and will leave the Single Market and Customs Union at the end of the Transition Period - 31/12/2020. An independent or sovereign trade policy will allow the UK to set its own tariffs on imported products and negotiate bilateral FTA's with key trading partners, the UK will also lead on ensuring market access to relevant customers and defending UK interests against unfair trade, most commonly referred to as anti-dumping. So how will this all be delivered?

Tariffs – From 1 January the UK will implement the UK Global Tariff. The Tariff will be payable on all imported products from markets with which the UK does not enjoy a Free Trade Deal. The UK Government conducted a consultation earlier in 2020 to determine the appetite of producers and consumers to see tariffs simplified and potentially reduced across the board. The review paid particular attention to where the UK was not a significant producer of a product, if we don't produce a product why put an additional cost on its import, being the logic. Please check the tariff payable on your imports at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-tariffs-from-1-january-2021>

Within FTAs the parties agree to either reduce or to fully liberalise the tariff. The EU has signed over 40 FTAs with third countries and the UK Government has looked to roll over many of the benefits ahead of the end of the transition period. New bilateral deals have been agreed with Japan, South Korea, Switzerland and Canada is pending. But the deal with Mexico will not be signed before the end of the year so tariffs will be payable on imports. New FTA's, those that the EU does not currently enjoy, are being negotiated with the United States, Australia, New Zealand and consideration is being paid to the UK joining a block

of countries who are already signatories to the TransPacific Partnership. The benefit of the UK being only responsible for the interests of its own citizens should mean that FTAs can be delivered more quickly and with greater focus on delivering real benefits. The US negotiations have made genuine progress with suggestions that a deal might be agreed in 2021. Compare this to the EU requiring 7 years to ratify the Canada agreement and a deal with the Gulf States not yet having been agreed after 20+ years. CNW's parent company the CIA continues to advise UK negotiators on what our industry would most benefit from in any US deal and we have agreed in advance much of the ground with the equivalent trade group in the US the American Chemistry Council.

From January the UK will take its seat as a full and independent member of the World Trade Organisation. The WTO, established in 1995, sets the global trading rules for its 160+ countries. The WTO has faced challenges in recent years, the US believing it is structured against wider US interests. The failure to appoint representatives onto the dispute resolution body made it difficult for the WTO to determine and enforce collective decisions. The UK is committed to reform and support the WTO to ensure global trade rules are met and early signs from the Biden Administration suggests a return to multilateral agreements is likely.

Before trade disputes arrive at the WTO sanctions (remedies) can be imposed at a national level. To ensure that free and fair trade is being conducted with the UK the Trade Bill will see the establishment of the Trade Remedies Authority. More than 100 staff have been recruited by the TRA who have spent the last couple of years training themselves on how to review a complaint brought and how to ensure that the evidence being considered will meet the WTO benchmark requirements. Only 40 of the 160 trade defence instruments in place within the EU have been transferred into UK law and we will look to work closely with the body to protect UK chemical producer interests. It should be clear that remedies are not protectionist, simply enforced to correct unfair trading practises.

**Further details are available from
Ian.Cranshaw@cia.org.uk**



Blossoming talent at Libra Speciality Chemicals

At Libra Speciality Chemicals, we aim to provide the highest level of customer service and product quality in the global surfactants industry.

Alongside this, we always strive to nurture and develop our internal talent, which is why we are pleased to announce that there have been three internal promotions at the Libra offices. We firmly believe that these internal promotions will further enhance our ability to achieve our goals and put more emphasis on our key focus of being a Commercially driven, Customer focussed business.



This series of internal promotions sees Dr Rob Wiles promoted to the newly created role of Technical Services Director. Upon receiving his promotion, Rob stated: "I am very honoured and flattered to be appointed the new Technical Services Director at Libra Speciality Chemicals Ltd and I am looking forward to developing and

growing the business with a fantastic team of people."

Former International Sales Manager, Jon Dutton, has been promoted to the newly created role of Director of Sales & Marketing. In this new role, Jon will oversee the full commercial process, ensuring that Libra continue to provide superior customer service. Jon said "I'm very thankful for being given the opportunity to lead and inspire the commercial team at Libra. I'm delighted to be taking on the challenge



and showcasing Libra's core values, providing world-class service, and promoting market-leading products."



Finally, Anna Holroyd has been promoted to International Sales Manager. Despite only being part of the Libra family for a short amount of time, Anna excelled in her previous role in the company, earning herself a well-deserved promotion.

"I am extremely thrilled to have been promoted to International Sales Manager at Libra Speciality Chemicals" Anna stated upon receiving her promotion. "I am honoured to work for a company who nurture and develop internal talent and am looking forward to the future whilst continuing to drive Libra's global strategy."

For more information about Libra Speciality Chemicals and the products we offer, please visit our website, or get in touch with a member of our team.

Website: <http://www.librachem.co.uk/>

Email: sales@librachem.co.uk

Tel: +44(0) 161 775 1888

If you don't already, why not follow us on social media:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/libra-chemicals/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LibraChem>

XCELLR8 wins inaugural PETA research grant

Wheeler Scholarship will help laboratory develop non-animal test methods

UK based testing laboratory XCellr8 has been awarded a first-of-its-kind research grant by animal rights organisation, PETA. The \$5,000 award will support the company's scientists to develop effective methods of testing chemicals without harming animals.

The new award has been created to honour Andrew Wheeler, an Administrator at the US Environmental Agency (EPA) who has worked to spare countless animals from chemical tests. The Pat C. Wheeler Scholarship is a tribute to his late mother, a life-long advocate for the humane treatment of all animals.

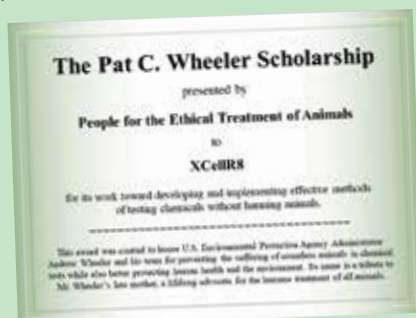
XCellr8 Founder and CEO, Dr Carol Treasure commented, "The XCellr8 team works tirelessly to develop and implement animal-free testing strategies, supporting global industry requirements for regulatory toxicity testing. We're truly honoured to have our hard work recognised with the first ever Pat C. Wheeler Scholarship and the award will be used to fund research to accelerate the world's transition to 100% animal-free testing."

Wheeler's team of scientists at the EPA and PETA scientists have been working to move

the EPA towards reliable non-animal testing methods that protect humans and the environment. Under his leadership, the EPA announced that it would end its reliance on toxicity tests on mammals—and have since taken steps to do just that.

"In the face of a flawed reliance on unreliable animal tests, Andrew Wheeler took action," says Dr. Amy Clippinger, director of PETA's Regulatory Testing Department. "PETA's grant honours the Administrator and his team for pioneering a shift toward superior non-animal testing approaches—and enables scientists to bring them to fruition."

"My mother was a supporter of the ethical treatment of animals all her life, so this scholarship is special for me and my family," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Scientific advances in cell-based testing and computation methods are now at a point that it's no longer necessary, or even useful, to use animals in toxicity tests. I'm happy to be in a position to lead EPA in this direction."



Contact: Susie Lee-Kilgarriff
Marketing Director
XCellr8

Email: susie.lee-kilgarriff@x-cellr8.com



RISK & HAZARD MANAGEMENT



"We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them." Albert Einstein

Understanding and facilitating the effective management of risk is our core business. Our expertise covers the full range of risk assessment and management services across:



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Only when the risk facing an organisation is well understood can it be effectively managed. Key to the successful identification, assessment and management of risk is engagement with the right people, using the right processes at the right time. We believe we are different to many of our competitors and our approach is distinctive, we don't always walk the well-trodden path but look at each client's particular risk context and develop a tailored solution, working in partnership with our client.

We work across all aspects of risk, from Quantitative Risk Assessments and Predictive & Consequence modelling, through to the 'softer' risks which may affect an organisation's reputation.

Understanding the impact of flange guards on hazardous area zoning

The use of flange guards is becoming more prevalent in the chemical industry, including where the formation of flammable mists can create the potential for an ignited release. Flange guards provide a surface for sprays of liquid to coalesce, removing fine droplets that could present an ignition risk.

While some might argue that installing flange guards removes the hazard, and therefore the hazardous area zone, it isn't that simple. In this article we discuss the challenges associated with flange guards and highlight the implications of this equipment on risk management.

Flange guards can appear to be a quick fix and an easy way to reduce the extent of hazardous zones, but it is important to consider that there is limited information available on their use and applicability. There is also limited evidence of their functionality, i.e. testing to ensure they perform sufficiently. The impact of flange guards on hazardous zoning requirements is also unclear within industry guidance, and there are no internationally recognised standards for this equipment. It is therefore imperative that careful consideration is given to the potential impacts on major accident hazard management where flange guards are installed.

Flange guards may indeed remove the hazards associated with flammable mist formation on pipeline flanges themselves, but they do not remove those hazards from other equipment, such as valves, that may be located nearby. It is in most instances, therefore, not appropriate to remove a zone based on the installation of a flange guard. As with any change, unintended consequences must be considered; is there potential for other hazards to be introduced by the use of flange guards?

Furthermore, where flange guards are installed, they are vulnerable to accidental removal, failure to be replaced correctly

(or at all) following maintenance and general mismanagement that can impact their integrity. Failure of a guard can re-introduce the potential for a release that could result in flammable mist formation.

The installation of flange guards does however reduce the frequency that a flammable mist could occur and therefore site LEVEL from a hazardous area perspective. They are also an effective measure in demonstrating that risk is being managed to As Low As Reasonable Practicable (ALARP) and show that steps are being taken to reduce risk, as long as they are implemented and managed correctly. Nevertheless, with the lack of standardisation and guidance available, it does not seem appropriate to use them as a zone reduction measure.

Where flange guards are in place, they should be managed as any other safety critical equipment would be managed on high hazard

sites. There should be a robust management system in place for their design, installation, inspection and maintenance. Isolation and permitting procedures should be followed when they are removed, and their maintenance regime must be suited to their criticality.

There has been some attempt to develop guidance on the use of flange guards, however at present there is a lack of international recognition. Evidence points to flange guards becoming more prevalent in the future, and certainly, under the right specification, a useful measure for controlling flammable mists. But before hazardous area zones can be managed and classified differently on the basis of flange guard installation, time should be spent developing a suitable standard and more guidance on their applicability and functionality needs to be available. Until then, using flange guards to remove hazardous zones should be treated with caution and robust systems should be in place to identify where their installation is appropriate.

For further details contact - enquiries@ras.ltd.uk



RISK & HAZARD MANAGEMENT



2020 Awards

Bitrez win the Chemicals Northwest 2020 International Trade Award

The International Trade category supported by the Department for International Trade was won by Bitrez. The judges were impressed that Bitrez have developed the world's first and only non-toxic, REACH compliant Ketamine alternative coating, Curamine.

Due to Bitrez being the only manufacturer which produces REACH-compliant grades, they hold 100% of the European market. Bitrez had already identified new export markets for Curamine into world leading specialist coating companies and had forecast a doubling of export sales in 2020 leading to a 24/7 production schedule.

Bitrez Limited is the UK's leading speciality polymer manufacturer, offering innovative products that focus on high performance, regulatory compliance and sustainability. Their extensive portfolio of pioneering technologies has been designed to meet bespoke customer needs within the coatings, composites and adhesive sectors whilst maintaining high quality, flexibility, value and service.

For further details on Bitrez visit - www.bitrez.com



Designing, developing and manufacturing award-winning polymers and speciality synthetic resins.



Call the team now on 01257 425512 or visit www.bitrez.com

Furalkamines the future

What does the future hold for Paul Jones FRSC? Already a highly acclaimed world leading polymer expert, recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, winner of The Queens Award for Enterprise and Director of three companies.

Paul Jones, Managing Director and Head of R&D joined Wigan based Bitrez as a 17-year-old Apprentice Technician. His intelligence, skills and determination enabled him to rise through the ranks to Development Chemist, Operations Manager and now Co-owner.

Bitrez leads the way in designing, developing, and manufacturing award-winning polymers and speciality synthetic resins. Paul is at the forefront of these cutting-edge innovations. These niche polymers are designed to offer regulatory compliance and technical solutions to customer requirements finding application in an extensive number of areas.

One of Paul's most recent achievements in 2020 has been his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC). Fellows are recognised as being experts in the industry of chemical sciences.

On Paul's Fellowship, Technical Director of Ru-bix Tooling Board/Advanced Thermosets Ltd, Dr Barrie G. Colvin FRSC, said: "Paul has a very rare quality of being a complete expert in the chemistry and application of epoxies, as well as achieving a very high professional position within that industry. He is clearly the person to go to for any question or advice in connection with epoxies and I have always found him unusually knowledgeable and helpful.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that he has had a major impact on the successful growth of the composites industry, a business sector that is growing rapidly in the UK and across the world...."

News of Paul's Fellowship has been far reaching with articles published in the European Coatings Journal, Europe's foremost magazine for the coatings industry and Coatings World, which has a global reach to the lucrative coatings market. Paul has also featured in the 2020 Parliamentary Review and written numerous scientific articles.

Further accolades in 2020 saw Paul recognised as a CEO Today Award winner. The CEO Today magazine researches innovative CEO's who have taken their companies to new levels and deserve recognition for these achievements. He also won Most Innovative Management Professional at the Corporate LiveWire Innovation and Excellence Awards. The judges "applauded Paul for his focus on changing the face of the polymer industry through innovative bio-derived polymers." Paul recently developed the new sustainable

epoxy curing agents coined Furalkamines, which are patent pending.

Paul's achievements have not stopped there and have seen him launch a further two successful businesses.

Chemical Processing Services Ltd, which focusses on sustainable polymer chemistry providing a bespoke consultancy service and Anacarda, specialist supplier of polymers derived from cashew nut shell liquid.

Paul and his highly skilled team at Bitrez have shown dedication and expertise to the chemical industry for nearly 40 years. Bitrez, founded in 1982 with a head office in Wigan has a turnover of £25m. It employs 100 people over two sites running 24/7 operations. It is an established and important local employer for the area.

Paul pioneered the research and development of Curaphen, a Bisphenol A (BPA) free phenolic resin. This revolutionary product led the team to win the Queens Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category in 2019. Curaphen is used in the internal coatings of food and drink packaging worldwide. It provides REACH compliant, safer specifications and has been a major commercial success for Bitrez. Curaphen is now a bestseller and has significantly contributed to Bitrez expanding in the UK and globally.

Curaphen also led Bitrez to win Manufacturing Company of the year 2019 at the Chemicals Northwest Awards. Further wins followed at the MakeUK Awards and the IChemE 2019 Global Awards. 2019 was rounded off with the team winning Business of the Year at the Wigan Chamber Awards.

In early 2020 Bitrez won the Chemicals Northwest International Trade Award for Curamine, a non-toxic Ketamine alternative coating. Paul led the research and development of Curamine and Bitrez now hold 100% of the European market.

Bitrez have featured in 'Chemistry for a better tomorrow', a pioneering documentary series from ITN Productions and the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) exploring the importance and value of the chemical and pharmaceutical industry in the UK.

Globally, Bitrez have partnered with Georgia-Pacific Chemicals as exclusive distributor for Curaphen across America, Canada and Mexico and appointed Dr Shahid Quershi as Technical Specialist for North America. They also have Head Quarters in Shanghai.

The future holds promise for Paul and his team...



Find out more about Bitrez - <https://www.bitrez.com/>

Laker – Vent Engineering, winner of the Health and Safety Award

Congratulations go Laker-Vent Engineering Ltd - Lakers who were the winners of the Health & Safety award, sponsored by Livent.

The judging panel were convinced by the examples of Director level engagement and safety leadership throughout the company. Beyond simply instructing or basic auditing of incidents. Lakers worked hard to ensure health and safety were front and centre of company operations. Accidents and near misses on site have been 0 during the last two years.

Lakers are a piping and mechanical contractor providing project or term service provision throughout the UK. From their head office in Ellesmere Port they operate nationally.

They provide services to many blue-chip manufacturing companies in the UK and use the following operating systems ISO9001:2015, 3834-2:2005, 45001 & 14001 certified via LRQA.



Michael & Tom Ventre

For further details on Laker-Vent Engineering visit the website - <http://lakervent.co.uk>

Vertellus, crowned winners of the Operational Excellence Award for the fourth year on the run

CF Fertiliser sponsored the Operational Excellence Award won by Vertellus. The judging panel thought the Vertellus operation a “cut and paste” of the very best practise within the industry and a worthy winner in a particularly strong category.

The company had worked hard to deliver right through the business and shared knowledge across the industry at a CIA Site Directors group meeting hosted at Halebank.

Vertellus is a global specialty chemicals company focussed on the manufacture of ingredients used in pharmaceuticals, personal care, nutrition, agriculture and other market areas affected by trends favouring ‘green’ technologies and chemistries. The Halebank site, established in 1939 produces agricultural and pharmaceutical intermediates, catalysts and rodenticides for a global customer base.



For further details on Vertellus visit the website - <https://vertellus.com/>

The Sustainability Award goes to Tradebe Chemicals

The Sustainability award was sponsored by Inovyn and the winning company was Tradebe Chemicals. The Tradebe entry was recognised for delivering auditable carbon savings of 30,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

Tradebe's approach to carbon management was cost-effective, environmentally friendly and provided their customer with an important brand differentiator within their own business.

Tradebe Chemicals is a specialist sustainable producer and distributor of quality-approved speciality chemicals throughout the UK, Europe and Worldwide.

They provide chemicals solutions from concept to design through to large-scale

production. Their service capabilities include: Chemical Sourcing & Sales; Custom Processing; Specialist Chemical Distillation & Purification; and Contract Packing.

For further details on Tradebe Chemicals visit - www.tradebe.co.uk



...with a Highly Commended recognition for Innospec Inc.

The judges were keen to recognise the achievements of Innospec for the Sustainability award so awarded a Highly Commended recognition.

Innospec have recognised brilliantly the importance of People in the "People, Planet, Profit" triangle of sustainability. The corporate commitment to volunteering was recognised as being an exemplary practice that other organisations could imitate for their own sustainability agendas.

Innospec are a NASDAQ-listed (IOSP) global specialty chemical company that focuses on bringing new, innovative technologies to their customers. With approximately 2,000 employees in 23 countries, they manufacture and supply a wide range of products through their four business units: Fuel Specialties,

Performance Chemicals, Oilfield Services and Octane Additives.

For further details on Innospec visit - <https://innospec.com>



Ames Goldsmith win the Manufacturing Company of the Year Award

PM PROJEN sponsored the Manufacturing Company of the Year award. The winning company was Ames Goldsmith.

The panel were convinced that Ames, an SME, were delivering right across the board in this category. Ames have achieved excellence in Customer support, sustainable growth, staff engagement, investing in the business and solidifying export markets in the face of Brexit.

Ames Goldsmith UK Ltd are a major supplier of silver-based products to the electronics, medical, photographic, mirror, water treatment and catalyst industries. Their manufacturing site in Kirkby, Liverpool exports the majority of its production into Europe. They have an expert team which are specialised in precious metal sourcing as well as chemical engineering.

For further details on Ames Goldsmith visit - www.amesgoldsmith.co.uk



Supplier of the Year Award goes to Studley Engineering and Electrical

The Chemical Industries Association (CIA) were delighted to award the Supplier to the Chemical Industry award to Studley Engineering.

The judges recognised Studley's considerable investment in developing talent through their excellent apprentice programme. Studley have focussed on building a strong chemical company client base this year and a streamlined approach to service client needs included the integration of an ISO compliant document management system which significantly improved their offer. Studley have invested in raising staff skills and CPD including mandatory safety skills.

Studley Engineering and Electrical based in Liverpool, has a direct workforce of 280 employees, serving process industries across the UK, including Food, Energy, Utilities, Petrochem, Chemical and Pharmaceutical.

Aligned with their on-going commitment

to safety, quality and delivery, this gives their customers the opportunity to reduce costs and risks associated with their projects.

For further details on Studley visit the website - www.studleyengineering.co.uk



Koura win the Chemicals Northwest 2020 Innovation Award

HF Consulting sponsored the Innovation Award. The winning company Koura have developed a new medical propellant following several years in development.

Balancing product efficacy and environmental stewardship the product delivers a 90% reduction in inhaler carbon footprints and cleverly converts the industrial quality material into a medical-grade application.

Koura is a global leader in the development, manufacture and supply of fluoroproducts that play a fundamental role in enhancing everyday lives.

Their products are used in a vast range of applications such as the construction of towns and cities, keeping homes cool, food fresh and even in the treatment of respiratory conditions.

For further details on Koura visit - www.kouraglobal.com



Simon Gardner

Core Additive Technologies receive Highly Commended in the Innovation category

The judges felt that a Highly Commended recognition in the Innovation category was warranted for CORE Additive Technologies for their innovative decontamination processes that work across industries.

CORE's solution delivers less down time for the equipment and greater confidence in the process for chemical companies.

CORE Additive Technologies is a new technology company, manufacturing and promoting additives and services for Construction, Oil, Road and Environmental Industries (CORE). The company offers a unique solution to many of these industries' requirements and problems. It manufactures tailor made chemical solutions and uses its technical experience and ability to manufacture bespoke products.

For further details on Core Additives visit - www.coreadditivetechnologies.com



The winner of the 2020 Young Talent in the Chemical Industry Award...

SRG sponsored the Young Talent in the Chemical Industry award. A record number of citations were received but Charlotte Houghton from John Hogg Technical Solutions Ltd stood out as a worthy winner.

Starting as an apprentice in 2013, the company recognised Charlotte's massive influence on business development and the positive link she provided between customers and technical solutions. Charlotte leads by example as the Apprentice Ambassador for the Greater Manchester Learning Provider Network.

Charlotte joined John Hogg as an apprentice in the quality team from Loreto Grammar School. She progressed through a number of roles in the company, becoming a key member of the Technical Service Team, an apprentice ambassador and completing her degree studies. Since September, Charlotte has chosen to pursue a path outside John Hogg studying for a Masters Degree in Environmental Leadership.

For further details on John Hogg visit - www.johnhogg.co.uk



The Special Recognition Award goes to Chemistry with Cabbage

Valtris sponsored the Special Recognition Award and were delighted to recognise the achievement of Chemistry with Cabbage in 2020.

Lorelly and the team continue to inspire students to learn science and now reach 6000 students each year, many from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Children and Teachers love the sessions and it delivers results.

Chemistry with Cabbage takes hands-on full day workshops into primary schools to show young children that they can do real chemistry with ordinary household chemicals. They work with nearly 200 schools every year inspiring students to study chemistry.



Valtris were proud to donate £1000 towards this winning scheme.

For further details on Chemistry with Cabbage please visit - www.lorellywilson.co.uk



Alex Abraitis presenting a cheque to Lorelly Wilson

Hosokawa Micron and EJ Peak win the 2020 Engineering Firm of the Year Award

The Engineering firm of the Year award sponsored by Chemicals Northwest was won by EJ Peak Technology Solutions and Hosokawa Micron Limited with a joint bid. The companies worked collaboratively on the digitalisation strategies around Powder Processing, a key process step for most chemical customers.

Harnessing data and applying advanced analytics delivered improved productivity, quality assurance, supply chain efficiency and people development.

Established in 2004 by engineering experts, EJ Peak Technology Solutions is a leading provider of complex process control and automation technology services for the manufacturing industry. Hosokawa Micron Ltd is a market-leading engineering company specialising in particle and powder processing equipment, R&D, contract manufacturing, intelligent software and analytics services.

For further details on Hosokawa Micron Limited visit - www.hosokawa.co.uk

Further details on EJ Peak Technology Solutions visit - www.ejpeak.co.uk



...With Highly Commended in the Young Talent category going to Erin and Jack from Hosokawa Micron Limited

SRG sponsored the Young Talent category. Due to the number of citations received the judges felt it was important to also recognize two Highly Commended in the Young Talent category, these were Erin Holman and Jack Edwards, both representing Hosokawa Micron.

Erin's role at the company continues to evolve, her positive impact on the wider business is evident. Jack is studying part time for a degree in Mechanical Engineering. HML say he continues to show himself to be a wonderfully effective end-to-end business project manager. Jack is blazing a trail in the adoption of innovative technologies such as 3D printing at HML.





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Award-Winning digital strategy solutions from a processing equipment pioneer

James Moore, Hosokawa Micron Ltd's Managing Director, reveals the inside story of how the process manufacturing equipment pioneer worked with control and automation technology experts, Peak Technology Solutions to create ground-breaking digital strategies and software, specifically with process manufacturers in mind.

Hosokawa Micron Ltd was proud to win Chemicals Northwest's prestigious 'Engineering Firm of the Year' award 2020 in collaboration with Peak Technology Solutions.

As a powder processing innovator for more than a century, our industry-leading equipment and expertise is trusted by high-end customers from sectors including chemicals, nuclear, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, homecare, nutraceuticals and cosmetics.

Cutting Edge Technology Collaborators

Always at the forefront of evolving industry requirements and customer trends, we recognised more than two decades ago that digital technology would be a future game-changer in the manufacturing industry and a critical requirement for us and also our customers. So, we entered the wonderful world of Industry 4.0 and the Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT).

We identified the need to not only integrate Industry 4.0 principles into our own powder processing, but into our customers' processes too, at a time when available technology was less advanced and very expensive. A degree of success was achieved in the very early days, but at the time, it was cost-versus-benefit prohibitive. We learnt pretty quickly that we couldn't implement our futuristic ideas alone, so looked for creative, skilled, like-minded and visionary technology specialists to help, partnering with Peak Technology Solutions and electronics giant, Siemens to put in place the technology we needed to achieve our vision for optimised powder processing. Our solution, **Hosokawa Gen4**, is now a tried and tested software that can effortlessly handle production problems and maximise processing opportunities. Its unique 'architecture' allows for processing continuous and non-continuous, high-value data in open and closed loop scenarios and features machine-learning capabilities that offer continual manufacturing improvement. The formula has been grounded in our theory that the human element is a vital component of a successful digital strategy. To this end, accumulated practical knowledge is captured and integrated into the software to improve its relevance and effectiveness.

- **Cloud services** mean our customers can utilise remote software environments for convenience and optimisation
- **Big Data Analytics** mean our customers benefit from operational intelligence gathered from the manufacturing information produced by the plant
- **Cyber Security** allows IT and OT integration to take place securely, allowing for the safe exchange of information

between the business and manufacturing layers

Risk and Reward

Undoubtedly, we took a risk by moving away from the comfort of existing control technologies to implement a brand-new, bespoke platform that perfectly exploits the foundations of Industry 4.0, but it has paid off in the knowledge we have acquired, the strategic business decisions we have been able to make and our unique position – that of a process manufacturing expert with proven digitalisation expertise which can be applied to data-driven manufacturing now and in the future.

Operational Benefits for Hosokawa Micron's Contract Manufacturing Service

Apart from the equipment side of the business, we have a contract manufacturing arm – part of our Technical Services division. Handling everything from hazardous materials to food grade ingredients, our dedicated facility gave us the perfect opportunity to hone, test and adopt our Hosokawa Gen4 technology in an authentic, real-time scenario, enabling the team to offer a more cost-effective final product of the highest quality. Overall, we have improved productivity, processes and batch quality and reduced machine downtime, implementing proactive maintenance programmes for supply chain efficiencies and more effective people management. Operational data cascades throughout our business processes, allowing for quicker, more effective decision-making, transparency and management in real time.

Hosokawa Gen4 as a Product and Service

Today, Hosokawa Gen4 goes from strength to strength, attracting interest from new and existing customers who are eager to adopt a digital transformation strategy and wish to benefit from our unique products and expertise. Our software and digital strategy solutions are used by equipment customers in the food and cosmetics industries, while our contract manufacturing services have been of considerable benefit to blue-chip customers from the worlds of pharmaceuticals, food and beverage and chemicals. We now have a more strategic approach to our business/product mix, successfully combining high volume and low margin projects with ultra-specialised lower volume, higher margin contracts.

The future is bright and exciting, thanks to the input of our excellent technology partners, including Peak Technology Solutions.

For further details please email: info@hosokawagen4.com or visit <https://www.hosokawagen4.com/>

James Moore, Managing Director, Hosokawa Micron.



ReAgent is Accredited as a real living wage employer

ReAgent is now ensuring that all employees are paid a fair salary based on living costs, rather than the minimum wage set by the government. This means every member of staff, including temporary, part time and contract staff, now receives a minimum wage of £9.30 p/h. Comparatively, the UK's minimum wage and national living wage are £8.20 and £8.72, respectively.

Unlike the national minimum wage, which is determined by age or seniority, the real Living Wage is based on the everyday costs of living. This independently-calculated rate is higher than the minimum wage because it prioritises people's everyday needs and quality of life.

While the real Living Wage is voluntary for employers, ReAgent believes that implementing this standard isn't only what their employees deserve, but is also crucial to the continued success of their business. ReAgent's CEO, Richard Hudson, says: "It's extremely important to me that we are a fair and ethical employer, and that everyone working at ReAgent is happy. That's why I'm proud that we pay the Living Wage, and I hope it shows our commitment to the wellbeing of our staff."

Already accredited to the Investors In People standard, ReAgent views paying the real Living Wage as the new benchmark for running a responsible and ethical

company. Employees are the lifeblood of every business, so ensuring that they can really live on what they earn has massive benefits in terms of morale and motivation. In fact, 75% of employers recognised by the Living Wage Foundation say that the real Living Wage has increased both motivation and employee retention.

As a chemical manufacturer, this increase in employee retention will directly impact the future growth of ReAgent as a global business. With the chemical industry experiencing increased job losses, and over 40% of chemical companies reporting a decline in exports, the future of one of the UK's largest export industries is precarious. ReAgent hopes that their new real Living Wage initiative will help curb this decline by attracting more workers to the industry, a hope that is vindicated by the fact that 93% of university students would rather work for a Living Wage employer.

By making the commitment to become a Living Wage Employer, ReAgent is ensuring that their staff feel supported and well cared for so that they can provide as great an experience as possible to customers. Find out more about ReAgent as a real Living Wage employer on their website.

About ReAgent

ReAgent was founded in 1977. Over 40 years later, ReAgent is internationally recognised for its high quality standards, first-class customer service, and bespoke chemical formulations. ReAgent also has an online shop at chemicals.co.uk and the team can be contacted on 0800 990 3258.



RS Clare announces completion of £1.6m new state-of-the art Technical Centre

RS Clare is delighted to announce the completion of its new Technical Centre, a £1.6m facility aimed at enabling greater product innovation and further supporting the company's reputation for technical excellence.

The investment is part of RS Clare's commitment to expand its focus on research and development (R&D) at its Liverpool headquarters and complements other capital expansion projects in recent years.

After initially planning to overhaul existing facilities, the company instead decided to take a more radical approach by building a new specialist testing centre on site.

The new facility will open up a huge range of opportunities to explore specific product testing and R&D as well as offering increased capacity with double the amount of space for testing and staff now available than before.

James Dearing, RS Clare's Engineering Manager, said:

"RS Clare has been known for its commitment to innovation and continuously improving solutions for customers throughout its history. The creation of this exciting space will help us match demand and allow us to develop products quickly and more effectively."

With one of the industry's largest technical teams dedicated to grease R&D, RS Clare's new space will offer greater innovation, increased speed to market and reduced costs.

Gary Bentley, RS Clare's Technical Manager, said:

"We now have dedicated areas to separate analytical instruments from our more heavy-duty mechanical testing equipment. It also gives us the scope to develop an industrial workshop where we can better replicate how products will perform out in the field."

"Developing innovative test procedures is important in bringing the laboratory and real-world environments closer together to give us greater confidence in our products and demonstrate to customers how our products will solve their application problems and deliver value."

The completion of the technical centre follows a successful year in 2019 with RS Clare's turnover reaching £41.7m in the year end to 31 December 2019, up from £37.7m in the previous year.

More information is available at <https://www.rsclare.com/news/how-rs-clares-new-technical-centre-enhances-product-innovation/>



Established in 1748, RS Clare is the longest established company

manufacturing lubricants in the UK and the business's continued success is attributed to innovation and a clear focus on delivering high-performance solutions to solve critical problems for their customers.

As well as serving the global oil and gas, rail, marine, industrial and thermoplastic markets, RS Clare has also provided private label grease manufacturing services to blue chip multinationals since 1925.



2M Group Limited acquisition makes it Germany's nationwide dry ice supplier

CE-O2 Trockeneis GmbH, a 2M Group Company, has acquired the dry ice business of Air Liquide GmbH, making CE-O2 Trockeneis GmbH a nationwide dry ice supplier across Germany.

Air Liquide GmbH's dry ice business operates from 9 supply locations across Germany and will become part of CE-O2 Trockeneis GmbH.

Supporting and enabling many industries, dry ice is essential for many of the things we depend on daily, with life-saving consequences in some cases.

Dry ice is primarily used in:

- Pharmaceuticals / Life Sciences – to support the transportation of tissues and biological samples, vaccines, and life-saving applications.
- Food – the preservation of food and reduction of waste when transporting many food products.
- Industrial Care – the cleaning of sensitive industrial plants through dry ice blasting.

"The dry ice business aligns perfectly with our sustainable business growth strategy" said Mottie Kessler, MBE, 2M Group Ltd, Chairman. "Dry ice helps food products to stay fresh for longer, extending shelf life and therefore, reduction of waste. It is also at the heart of some essential health services."

"I would like to thank our Industrial Gas Advisor and CE-O2 Managing Director, Mr Reiner Niethammer for helping us to identify this opportunity, and Air Liquide Germany for their support and collaboration during the transition period".

The newly acquired business will be managed by Philipp Lüdicke (Managing Director, CE-O2 Trockeneis GmbH). CE-O2 Trockeneis GmbH and Air Liquide GmbH look forward to working in close partnership to support the sustainable supply of dry ice.

Liran Maller (Group Director of HR & PR) - lmaller@2m-holdings.com

Appleyard Lees trainee patent attorney goes above and beyond to raise awareness this World Mental Health Day

Jonathan Foster, Appleyard Lees trainee patent attorney, is raising awareness of and working to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness.

In association with The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys (CIPA) and Jonathan's voice, an organisation set up in 2017 in memory of successful patent attorney Jonathan McCartney who tragically took his own life that year, is devoted to reducing the stigma associated with mental health issues and empower people to speak up and reach out for help when they need it.

Jonathan has been newly appointed to the role of CIPA Welfare Officer, a role that sees him undertake Mental Health Awareness training to become a mental health first aider and offer resource, raise awareness and provide a point of support for trainee attorneys.

On this appointment, Jonathan said, "My aim as Welfare Officer is to offer resources, raise awareness and eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness among trainee and qualified patent attorneys".

He added, "I'll also be working closely with Jonathan's Voice, as well as building relationships with other charities such as the Charlie Waller Trust and Unmasked Mental Health.

"Being able to play a small part in the work that Jonathan's Voice do is something I'm extremely proud of, and something I hope I can continue to do throughout my career", he said.

Appleyard Lees applauds Jonathan's work. "Jonathan is an example to us all, giving his time to a cause that he believes in to support the trainee and qualified patent attorney communities", said Dick Waddington, Managing Partner at Appleyard Lees. "We are all very proud of this important work Jonathan is doing".

Appleyard Lees also provides resources to its people to look after their mental health, including the support of trained mental first aiders and awareness training sessions from charity Unmasked.

For further details please see - <https://www.appleyardlees.com/>

Appleyard Lees share highs and lows of the virtual 'courtroom' experience at the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court

Over the past few months leading intellectual property firm Appleyard Lees have litigated an unprecedented number of trials, held in an equally unprecedented virtual format, in the Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC).

2M Group acquires Evonik Goldschmidt UK

The 2M Group of Companies (www.2m-holdings.com) has acquired Evonik Goldschmidt UK Limited in Milton Keynes (United Kingdom) from Evonik UK Holdings Limited, a UK subsidiary of Evonik Industries AG.

The site will be renamed 2M Manufacturing Limited and will retain all existing employees and assets. As the first bespoke manufacturing site within the 2M Group, it represents a significant milestone in its growth and development.

Surfachem, part of the 2M Group, has marketed the products manufactured at the Milton Keynes site for over 20 years. The 2M Manufacturing Limited site will continue to produce its existing product portfolio, whilst also providing opportunity for future expansion.

Evonik and 2M are working in partnership to maintain a high level of customer service throughout the transition period and will continue to work together as distribution partners across the UK and select parts of Europe.

About 2M Group of Companies

Maintaining a portfolio of Material & Life Science companies, the 2M Group is committed to delivering chemistry-based solutions for a healthier life today and a better world tomorrow. Entrepreneur founded in 2004, the 2M Group is privately owned and led by Mottie Kessler MBE, the present Chairman and CEO and Dr Maggie Kessler, International Trade Director. Headquartered in the UK, and with sites in Benelux, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Poland and Nordic region, the 2M Group exports to circa 90 countries. The Group includes: 2M Water Treatment, Banner Chemicals, CE-02, Ingretech France, MP Storage & Blending, SampleRite, Stowlin & Surfachem.

The 2M Group strives to emphasise equality and create opportunities by championing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education.

2M Group Recognition

- (2020) The Community Interaction Award, an award presented by the Chemical Business Association (CBA) that acknowledges major contributions to the community, awarded for STEM initiatives.
- (2020) The Sunday Times' Top Track 250 league which ranks Britain's private mid-market growth companies with the biggest sales.
- (2020 & 2019) Export Champion 2020 & 2019, Department for International Trade's Northern Powerhouse.
- (2019) The Queen's Award for Enterprise – International Trade 2019

For more information contact - lmaller@2m-holdings.com

COVID Recruitment Market – ‘What’s happening’?

As award-winning search specialists (headhunters), long-established in the Chemicals and Healthcare sectors, we've worked through previous difficult recessions; this market is unprecedented with the uncertainty about 'what's next'.

Having worked throughout COVID lockdown, we're not complacent and feel fortunate our expertise lies in sectors essential to the COVID-effort and the wider UK economy.

There is confidence in our sector and a need to push on.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going... keep going, try to keep going!

Although there are many people in the market from less fortunate sectors, including from Chemicals and senior professionals – due to restructuring, down-sizing and redundancies, there is still a shortage of the highest-calibre talent.

The current market is very active and it's more volatile than pre-COVID – it's more aggressive; exceptional candidates are getting snapped up with offers and often have 1 or 2 other offers too. There is a 'pent-up' desire to recruit, as companies want and need to invest in key talent to drive growth and not be left behind by active competitors, maybe starting to attract their staff.

Certain clients recruited new roles throughout the summer lockdown (including a role at Director level) and they definitely 'stole a march' on the market to secure exceptional candidates, by being fast-paced, decisive and taking advantage of a less competitive field. Ambitious, progressive candidates are attracted to this confidence. Now the market is much more competitive, with active mandates for early 2021 starts.

Using a retained approach is even more relevant in this market. How else can you really compete to attract and secure the best talent (often in good permanent roles) rather than resorting to being the highest bidder? A successful 'retained' advocate will promote your differentiated opportunity as an allied partner and help you evolve and compete as needed.

Anita Caldwell, Principal Consultant – Chemicals, RMG - anita.caldwell@rmg-uk.com 07760 445183, 01928 711800

Following this, Appleyard Lees have put together a useful guide outlining their experience and learnings of this new virtual format. This includes guidance regarding pre-trial preparation (bundles), paying particular attention to page numbering, making PDFs searchable, page orientation and bookmarks; virtual 'courtroom' etiquette; witness cross-examination do's and don'ts; and final practice notes.

This guide will be helpful for other attorneys, solicitors and litigants with upcoming trials at the IPEC which, for the foreseeable future, will be held virtually.

To hear more about their experiences of virtual trials, listen to the recent episode of *The Greenshoots Podcast* by Appleyard Lees.

Innovate and Collaborate with Lancaster University

In this edition of Chemicals Northwest Elements magazine, we speak to Martin Gilmore, Head of Partnerships & Business Engagement, Engineering and Physical Sciences at Lancaster University, to find out about research, facilities and collaboration opportunities at Lancaster University.

Over 11,000 Partnerships

“Here at Lancaster University, The Times and The Sunday Times International University of the Year 2020, we have always welcomed the challenges that business provide us. I work in our Faculty of Science and Technology and facilitate business collaboration in chemistry, physics and engineering as part of an award-winning partnerships and engagement team at Lancaster. Our team is embedded alongside our researchers and has assisted over 11,000 businesses. We have a thriving business community on our 560-acre parkland campus, hosting over 110 businesses since 2005. We liaise with all areas of the chemical industry, ranging from multinational oil, chemical and pharmaceutical companies, to a host of smaller enterprises producing new and specialised products.

Expanding team of Researchers

“We have an expanding team of researchers at the forefront of their fields, and an extensive array of new instrumentation and equipment to support our innovation activities. Our research strengths are in chemical synthesis, physical and analytical chemistry, catalysis, functional materials, surface engineering, and process chemistry. Current research projects include development of solar energy storage coatings for electric vehicles combining materials design, synthesis and advanced molecular characterisation.

Expanding set of facilities

“Our £11.4m cTAP building offers managed office accommodation and laboratory space exclusively for industry collaboration, ideally suited to start-up companies, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and R&D teams from established companies. What sets the facility apart is the £7m investment in equipment, across four suites, with dedicated experimental officers whose role is to collaborate with industry in unlocking the potential of the equipment in improving processes and creating new products. Our Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) suite includes some of the most powerful solid state NMR devices in the UK, currently used to analyse biological samples and identify smart materials for energy storage. We also have powerful state-of-the-art nanofabrication devices, capable of 3D printing complex structures down to nanoscale, and Infrared

and Raman micro-spectroscopic facilities to examine chemical molecular structures.

Funding available

“We facilitate a wide variety of interdisciplinary collaborative research projects, which include over £30m investment from Europe via structural funding to work with SMEs, and projects funded by the Government’s £725m Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Right now, we are seeking new partners to work with on exciting innovative projects. There are lots of ways for organisations to collaborate, from student placements, contract research, facilities access, professional development to multi-partner collaborative research projects. We have a team of professionals working with businesses who we match with the right expertise and resources from across the University and our wider partner network. We also have seed funding available for technical support and access to specialist instrumentation through a range of Impact Accelerator Awards (IAA), with around £10,000 of funding available per company. At various points throughout the year we also announce calls for co-funded applications for projects that are supported by up to £25,000 from the IAA matched in cash by external partners.

NEXT GEN CHEM

“We work with businesses to develop technology solutions, improve products and novel materials using ‘next generation’ chemistry. We focus on present and future innovation needs within five areas- catalysis, chemical processes, polymers, sustainable chemicals, and chemical engineering. We offer targeted workshops and bespoke technical, analytical research and development support. Our ambition is to make Lancaster University a hub for ‘next generation chemistry’ where businesses from across the globe can co-develop new products, formulations and chemical processes.

SMART Materials

“The Materials Science Institute at Lancaster is a community of over 200 academic and research staff, working with businesses to provide cutting-edge ideas and solutions in the use, design and manufacture of materials. We can help businesses find new materials for products, test and develop products, processes and business ideas, trial new technologies and processes, develop and build prototypes, and understand developments in materials science. We can improve the performance of surfaces and coatings, chemicals and chemistry in products and processes and also develop capabilities in additive manufacturing.

Find out more about our research, facilities, and collaboration projects at www.lancaster.ac.uk/sci-tech/business

Catalyst receives lifeline grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum has been awarded **£162,000** as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure they have a sustainable future.

Catalyst is one of 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving urgently needed support. £257 million of investment has been announced as part of the very first round of the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England.

Catalyst is the only science centre and museum in the UK dedicated to the science and technology behind the chemicals industry and its impact on our lives – past and present. Through a range of interactive exhibits, hands-on workshops, entertaining science shows and historical archives Catalyst has been inspiring and educating people of all ages for over 30 years. The grant from the Culture Recovery Fund will help Catalyst re-open following the challenges of Covid -19 and will ensure a sustainable future for a long-established local resource.

Chair, Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, said: "Theatres, museums, galleries, dance companies and music venues bring joy to people and life to our cities, towns and villages. This life-changing funding will save thousands of cultural spaces loved by local communities and international audiences. Further funding is still to be announced and we are working hard to support our sector during these challenging times."

Catalyst CEO Martin Pearson, said: We are delighted to receive this award from the Arts Council as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF). As all heritage organisations are acutely aware, these are unprecedented times and have put the future viability of our sector in stark focus. This award, along with other support, will allow us to plan a future during the next phase of the pandemic whilst securing jobs locally and providing an invaluable support to our local community. We are planning to re-open the end of October 2020 with renewed confidence, despite our acknowledgement that visitor numbers will be much lower for the foreseeable future. Our heritage offer has been protected.

Visit <https://www.catalyst.org.uk/>



5 high-tech businesses locate to Daresbury Laboratory

Five pioneering early stage businesses have located their businesses at Daresbury Laboratory where cutting edge research facilities, on-site expertise and business support will help them take their businesses to the next level.

Part of the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), Daresbury Laboratory, famous for its rich history in ground breaking research, offers businesses affordable and flexible access to high-specification laboratories and equipment, on-site expertise and business support that would usually be out of reach for a small business. Our offering enables businesses to save money, reduce risk and grow.

Tangible business benefits

The new companies span a range of sectors from using augmented reality technologies to develop screen-based story-telling experiences, to developing fast, accurate and cost effective Covid-19 testing technologies. One company, LR Consultancy, is developing advanced purification technologies for the semiconductor and chemical manufacturing industries.

Delyth Edwards, Business Incubation Programmes Manager, said, "It's really exciting to be welcoming these five new companies to Daresbury Laboratory. We are perfectly placed to help start-ups solve their high-tech innovation challenges and enhance their competitiveness."

Five new companies

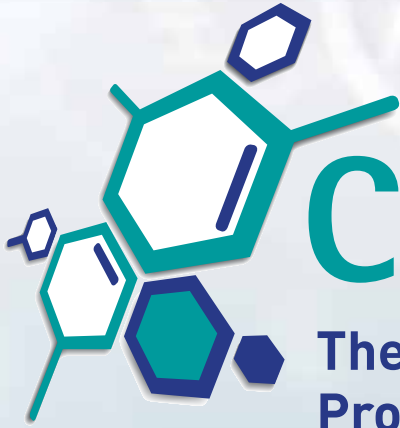
- LR Consultancy: Developing advanced purification technologies for the semiconductor and chemical manufacturing industries.
- Alphabiolabs: Developing and providing fast, cost effective and accurate DNA, drug and alcohol testing and, more recently, Covid-19 testing.
- Immersive Storylab: Using immersive technology to create moving 'storyworlds' with augmented reality 3D characters.
- Envisage Space: Using advanced satellite technologies and analytics to improve GNSS (GPS, Galileo, etc) location accuracy in complex environments (built up cities, industrial areas, mines etc) and deliver associated products and services.
- IoT Horizon: An Internet of Things Specialist evaluating clients' ideas and challenges to guide them through the Digital Transformation process, turning concepts to profit, quickly. This includes all things IoT, sensors, security, software and electronics.

Daresbury Laboratory is located within the vibrant ecosystem at Sci-Tech Daresbury. Businesses located here gain unique access to the wider support, expertise, innovation opportunities and networks offered by the campus.

Find further information about support for SMEs at Daresbury Laboratory and across STFC at <https://stfc.ukri.org/innovation/access-to-expertise-networks-and-facilities-for-early-stage-businesses/>

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12TH & 13TH MAY 2021 REGISTER FREE AT WWW.CHEMICALUKEXPO.COM

CHEMUK Expo 2021 moves to NEC Birmingham

With all industries affected in 2020 by the global Covid-19 pandemic, the UK's national chemical industries trade show has been re-scheduled to take place in **May 2021**, now at its 'new' venue, the **National Exhibition Centre (NEC) Birmingham**. Dates for **CHEMUK 2021 Expo & Open Conference** are set as **Wed 12th & Thur 13th May 2021**.

Building in size further, the multi-award nominated CHEMUK 2021 will present some 300+ leading exhibitors and 100+ expert speakers, under the giant roof of the NEC's premier Hall 1. CHEMUK 2021 is the only large-scale trade show that brings together the UK's chemicals, chemical processing and chemical product formulation industries, providing an intensive 2-day supply chain sourcing, business networking, intelligence gathering, innovation showcasing, best-practice and strategy development experience.

CHEMUK Founder and Managing Director Ian Stone talks about the next stage of the event's growth "Although disappointed that the event's 2020 (Manchester) event could not proceed this year due to Covid-19, we are delighted to host the next edition of the event (now 2021) at NEC Birmingham. The expanded footprint allows for strong growth in the number and diversity of specialist exhibitors, as well as providing a UK-central venue, with fantastic easy connectivity, for attendee groups nationwide & further afield. The appetite for this event has been amazing, with not only a continual stream of new exhibiting names adding to the 2021 line-up, but also a great many taking larger stand spaces to showcase wider solutions & services"

Expanded Supply Chain Expo:

CHEMUK 2021 will provide visitor groups with a diverse and impressive showcase of **300+ specialist exhibitors** showcasing latest **plant, equipment, materials and services** supporting the chemicals industries, driving product innovation, plant & process performance, futureproofing, supply-chain fulfilment, safety, compliance and more.

LATEST exhibitor names added to the line-up since September include: ABB, Robinson Brothers, ALPECO, Sovereign Labelling Machines, Lakeland Industries, Tool-Temp, KTEC Group, Kwerk GmbH, INNOVA S.r.l., Projex Solutions, Safapac, EB Equipment, Tennants Distribution, AC Valves & Controls, Moeschle (UK), RECORD316, EXPO Technologies, BKW Instruments, Thielmann UK, RBH Ltd, OAMPS, URSA-Chemie GmbH, Plasticon Composites, DEC UK, Wiese Europe, EMPTEEZY, Score (Europe), Serfilco International, DEKRA, MARCH MAY and more being added daily...

CHEMUK 2021 Speaker Programme – expanded to 4 stages

The CHEMUK 2021 speaker programme will present, over

4 parallel stages, over 120 speakers providing 35+ hours of 'free to attend' expert intelligence, case studies, best practice and tech-insight 'snapshots', to inspire and assist next level investment, as well as guide technical and operational strategies for attending industry groups across the UK chemicals & chemical product sectors.

The BIG Issues

Centre stage will be critical themes such as process innovation, improvement & intensification, green chemistry, sustainability & responsible care, digitisation, new technology, plant & supply chain management, process safety & regulatory landscape, global trade, sector skills and much more...

BREXIT & COVID-19 themes

The unfolding post-Brexit landscape for the Chemical manufacturing, distributing & chemical-using sectors will have feature coverage over both days, with planned input from multiple sector angles. Additionally, the implications of the latest Covid-19 pandemic status for operational safety as well as future supply chain opportunities supporting the critical Pharmaceutical/Vaccine/API sectors.

Organisations confirmed to speak include; **Chemical Business Association, Chemical Industries Association, Defra, BEIS, Department for International Trade (DIT), BASF, Brenntag, BioVale, The KTN, ABB Energy Industries, The HazChem Network, Accenture, Dupont, Siemens, GAMBICA, Royal Society of Chemistry, Process Intensification Network (PIN), Tank Storage Association, The British Contract Manufacturers and Packers Association (BCMPA), HSE, Environment Agency, Cogent Skills, CATCH, Centre for Process Innovation, Calgavin, Maelstrom Advanced Process Technologies, IChemE Safety Centre, RAS Ltd, National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC), Newson Gale, REACHLaw...** and many more.

Sector Perspectives

Representing downstream chemical product industries, CHEMUK welcomes senior representatives from **United Kingdom Lubricants Association (UKLA), British Coatings Federation, British Adhesives & Sealants Association (BASA), British Pest Control Association (BPCA), Solvents Industry Association (SIA), Paint Research Association (PRA), Oil & Colour Chemists' Association (OCCA), Composites UK, Confederation of Paper Industries (CPI), The Paper Industry Technical Association (PITA), Aromatherapy Trade Council (ATC)** and others, who will all be providing illuminating sector perspectives and discussing implications for the wider chemical supply chain.

Registration:

Visitor registration is set to go 'live' from Jan 2021, providing free access to all presentation theatres and the exhibition floor. For all very latest information, please visit www.chemicalukexpo.com

What's popular and what's working in the 4th Industrial Revolution



Companies are making strides to capitalise on the potential of the fourth industrial revolution; the only industrial revolution to be named before it has actually happened.

As well as investments by companies, the government is keen to extend the benefits to more companies and reap the benefits of growth, jobs and productivity gains.

Industrial digital technologies (IDTs) is a rather wide-ranging set of technologies and as a platform, has all the potential to be caught by Hype: change, change, more change. The downside is that companies might be distracted or not know where to start. To give a sense of progress almost any IDT project may be considered even though it's not the best for the company.

And across the world, nations are competing to advance the rewards for their home industries from the UK with Made Smarter to similar programmes in China, Germany, America and South Korea.

But from these programmes, what can we learn about what is being tried but perhaps more importantly, what is making a business impact. What can we learn about the barriers to the adoption of IDTs that can inform our strategies for planning IDT strategies?

The Evidence from early adopters of IDTs

The opportunities in digital transformation are quite vast. The cost and availability of sensors are plummeting, communications infrastructure is rolling out to enable adoption and protocols for data sharing across supply chains and with consumers is coming. Smart products, processes, supply chains even customers combine to drive the opportunities for new ways of working and for doing business.

A report for Innovate UK by the Institute for Manufacturing at Cambridge University reveals what IDTs are popular and which ones are making the greatest business impact. It also examines the common barriers to adoption.

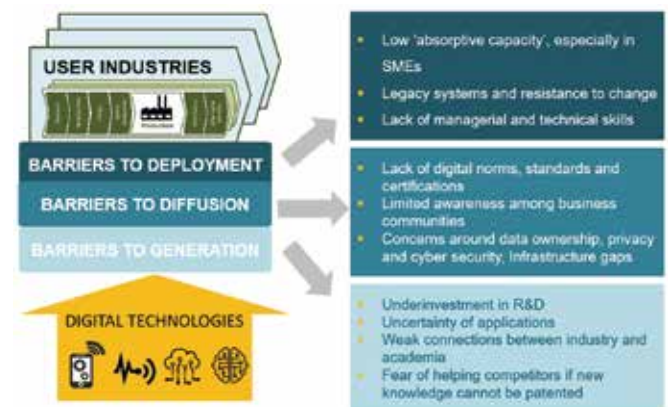
The study looked at how companies are harnessing these new technologies and where they are focusing their effort. Seventy initiatives globally collected over one thousand cases studies or what individual companies are doing with 212 examined in detail.

A key insight is that what is most popular are not always the most valuable to the company. Common drivers for firms are to reduce labour costs, reduce materials costs and improve delivery performance. Process control and optimisation is the No 1 strategy across all categories. However, process design and definition or product and process design make the greatest impact on labour or material cost reduction strategies. Staff and workflow management is the winning strategy in delivery performance.

A further report highlights less about IDTs as a route to business impact and encourages digital transformation to be integrated with business strategy, including reviewing the business model as high-impact strategies.

Barriers to Adoption of IDTs

From a solid understanding of the barriers to new technology, you can plan strategies to manage the change. Using an innovation diffusion model, the graphic highlights top barriers in each phase of adoption. Which impact your company the most?



Conclusions

The main message is that for companies to make the real impact from digitalisation, they need to think strategically and focus efforts on high impact, even if it's difficult to do. Understand where value is, first, and then move from that position.

IDTs are an opportunity to rethink competitiveness strategy and what the business is about, well beyond only automating inside the factory box. Know that the Hype and the Barriers are real, but so are the opportunities. And a practical next step for technology leaders would be to build your strategic roadmap.

Want to know more?

I can take a look at your digitalisation strategy and help you to create your strategic roadmap focussed on the IDTs with highest business impact. See my previous articles of strategic roadmapping process and the front end innovation system.

Please contact IfM's Industrial Associate in the Northwest, Rob Munro to discuss your technology and innovation management objectives, Email rjm240@cam.ac.uk or call +44(0)7896 128 878

Chemistry - not magic, but magical

Business depends on a supply of young people interested in careers in the chemical industry. Chemistry with Cabbage delivers hands-on workshops for 200 schools in the North West. We do fun, simple experiments that get children interested in science. Fill a bottle with water, put a card on top and you can turn it over without losing a drop. Hang a fork on a piece of string and “ting” it against a glass. Then put your fingers in your ears – the difference is astounding – it sounds like Big Ben.

Young children will often say “that’s magic”. It is magical, but it is not magic – there’s a major difference. With a magic trick as soon as you know how it’s done it’s not interesting anymore. In chemistry, the more you understand it, the more interesting it gets.

Children learn a lot of science from the television, which is brilliant, but I hate to see chemistry portrayed as flashes, bangs and explosions. You might as well just light fireworks. If they think studying chemistry is going to be one explosion after another they are going to have a nasty shock. Real research is serious stuff, repeating experiments over and over again. We have to get kids interested in the subject, not just the effects.

It’s all about encouraging a sense of wonder in the small stuff, the things that happen every day. Newton wasn’t the first person to be hit on the head by an apple. His genius was that he thought deeply about what must be happening.

Let me give you a more recent example. Nanotechnology has applications from electronics to medicine. It’s all about the way that particle size affects the way chemicals behave. But this is not new - everyone who cooks knows about this phenomenon. Icing sugar is exactly the same as granulated sugar except for its particle size. Whizz granulated sugar in a food processor and you get icing sugar, but the two behave quite differently. You can’t make icing with granulated sugar; it just dissolves in the water. By contrast

it’s difficult to get icing sugar to dissolve because of the surface effects of its tiny particle size. I’ve known that for years, as has anyone who has ever done any baking. Why didn’t we get the Nobel prize? Because we didn’t think about it. It took chemists at Manchester University to put serious thought into what was happening.

Chemistry with Cabbage workshops are all about getting children to think about what is going on in very ordinary, everyday things. One of my favourite demonstrations is making a Lardberg – melting lard and then dropping some solid lard in and showing the difference between that and an iceberg. Ice floats on water and most people don’t realise how strange that is. H₂O is the only chemical that we come across in solid, liquid and gaseous form. We don’t see liquid oxygen, solid alcohol or calcium gas, so we are not familiar with the way they behave. Every other chemical behaves very differently to water. If you freeze oil and drop it into liquid oil, it sinks. Melt lard and drop in a spoonful



of solid lard - it sinks. All chemicals sink in their own liquid because as they get colder the molecules get closer together and it gets denser. All chemicals except water, which behaves very strangely indeed. The really interesting thing about this is that life depends on water being so peculiar. If ice sank in water, as every other solid does in its own liquid, all the lakes would freeze in the winter. The fish would die, animals that rely on fish would die.

It is contemplating the wonder of very ordinary things that we try to encourage in young children.

You can be part of this. Contact Lorelly Wilson - lorellywilson@gmail.com



The Future of Environmental Law

The new Environment Bill is a massively influential piece of legislation, and a definitive statement of Government policy on the environment. Much needs to be done.

Environment Agency and Natural England have been disempowered by severe personnel and budget cuts. Although a legal target to hit net zero carbon by 2050 is in place, there is no policy machinery to implement it, and the UK is off course in terms of hitting existing carbon budgets. Further, Brexit will imminently remove the appellate jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice (ECJ), which acted as the final arbiter on claims that the UK Government had failed to comply with environmental law.

Governance and enforcement

The Bill establishes the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) to act as a nominally independent watchdog to fill this governance gap. All climate change legislation, including carbon budgets, will also be brought within the OEP's enforcement remit. The OEP will monitor progress towards achieving national environmental improvement targets and advise Government on proposed changes to environmental law.

The OEP cannot replicate the international experience and clout of the ECJ, and is not designed to do so. But will it be sufficient to maintain, or improve, the levels of protection afforded to environmental law by EU institutions? To be successful and effective the OEP will need to be truly independent and have sufficient teeth to hold the Government to account when necessary. The current OEP proposals have been criticised as being inadequate. In stark contrast to the ECJ, the Government is unlikely to lose much sleep over OEP action, having designed the OEP as its own bespoke watchdog, to which the Secretary of State may even issue guidance regarding its enforcement policy! The scope for dilution of OEP power and function is readily apparent.

Targets

Theresa May's government introduced the legally binding target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Environment Bill will set further targets in the areas of air quality, clean water, waste reduction and biodiversity. The air quality focus will be on reducing the human health impact of fine particulates (PM2.5), while water-related targets will include reductions in waste water pollution and abstraction volumes. There will be at least one long-term, binding target in each area, supplemented with non-binding interim

targets, and the OEP will report annually. The targets will be set after consultation, probably by late 2022.

Waste

Amongst the proposed changes in the waste sphere are powers to revise and extend the packaging producer responsibility scheme and provisions concerning the regulation of waste imports/exports and recycling. The intention is eventually to make producers responsible for the full net costs of managing their products at end of life, and to stop the export of waste to developing countries.

REACH

The REACH regime is entirely EU-derived and has been resourced by all Member States. The Environment Bill's provisions in respect of chemical regulation are receiving close attention from industry and environmentalists alike. At the time of writing it is still possible that the UK will reach an agreement with the EU that will enable it to remain within REACH, but otherwise a national body will have to take over the functions of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). There are concerns that a UK regulator would lack the ECHA's resources and expertise and would be severely hampered by its inability to access the EU's chemical safety database. Any future divergence between the EU and UK regimes on chemicals regulation will damage UK export trade unless some sort of level playing field is agreed.

Timing

The Secretary of State at Defra recently admitted that the Bill will not receive Royal Assent until July 2021. Thus the OEP will be set up "in embryonic form" only. There may therefore, be a yawning governance gap of several months duration.

Time will tell as to whether the provisions of the Bill represent an improvement in terms of environmental protections or not. The OEP is unlikely to be as formidable as the EU institutions it replaces, although it could still be effective if it is appropriately staffed and resourced, with strong independent leadership.

However, neither the resource starved condition of the current bodies that regulate the environment, nor the apparent acceptance of a 7 month time gap between Brexit and Royal Assent, bode well in that regard.

For more information please contact:

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victoria.joy@symmetrylaw.co.uk

www.symmetry-law.co.uk



Symmetry Law

Supplying to the Chemical Industry

Knowing your local supply chains is important, and suppliers of expertise, solutions and great products are right here in the northwest. CNW members have a strong association with and many years of experience supplying to the chemical industry. The companies listed in this directory cover a wide range of products and services. They have established customers in the sector, with proven track records. Many will be well known, long-standing firms and there will also be new and innovative businesses that you may not have heard about. Effective supply partnerships, delivering success for all! For more details, the websites for the listed companies and organisations can be found at:

<https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/Membership/Our-Members/>

Distribution, logistics & chemical handling

2M Holdings Ltd

Chemical distribution and related services of sample management, storage and blending. Provision of AdBlue, Samsol products, packed chlorine and TRIKLONE & PERKLONE chlorinated solvents. Markets served include: automotive, precision cleaning, coating, oilfield & refineries, flavours, fragrances, surfactants for personal care, household and industrial cleaning and pharmaceuticals.

Actikem Ltd

An ISO9001 certified business, specialising in a range of chemical processes and manufacturing services, including mixing, storage and re-packaging. We provide toll and custom manufacturing services for SMEs as well as blue-chip organisations, and supply customers with on-tap production facilities, offering them potential cost-savings and greater flexibility.

BakerCorp UK Ltd

Provision of rental products for transfer, storage and treatment of liquids. Specialising in liquid management solutions for demanding operations, with focus on the tank, pump and filtration product lines. From a single-product storage project to setting up an integrated multi-product solution. Initial chemical compatibility checks, 'job walks', CAD drawings and rigorous equipment maintenance schedules.

Brenntag UK & Ireland

Connects chemical manufacturers and chemical users in a value-adding partnership through tailor-made distribution solutions. Offers specific application technology, extensive technical support and value-added services (i.e. just-in-time delivery, product mixing, formulation, repackaging, inventory management and drum return handling). High safety standards and strives to make served industries sustainable.

F2 Chemicals Ltd

As a specialist in the handling of fluorine gas, F2 Chemicals Ltd offers a variety of organofluorine products all manufactured at our Preston plant. Our primary product is a range of high specification perfluorocarbons, such as octafluoropropane and perfluorodecalin, under the Flutec tradename, used in applications including medical, tracers, plasma-cleaning, cooling and cosmetics.

Hosokawa Micron Ltd

Integrated powder processing technologies including: size reduction, air classification, mixing, drying, containment equipment such as gloveboxes and downflow booths. Contract processing services for 1kg to multi-tonne lots. Remote monitoring solutions that include: condition monitoring, analytics for improving product quality and energy efficiency and on-line diagnostics for predictive maintenance and improved plant availability.

Kanon Liquid Handling Ltd

Design and manufacture of drum, IBC and container filling systems ranging from fully automated robotic systems to simple manual machines. Full range of marine, road and rail tanker loading/unloading and safe access equipment. Distributor for Mann-Tek couplings, with repair facility and 'return to base' option.

Education, training & skills

All About STEM

Lots of different projects to bring exciting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to schools across the region, linking them with business and industry expert volunteers inspiring the next generation of STEM specialists. Building and maintaining relationships with our schools, businesses, industry, colleges and universities so that we can strategically match-make opportunities with need.

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre

An independent charitable trust playing a pivotal role in promoting science across the Northwest. Catalyst works in conjunction with industry partners to excite young people about all STEM subjects and careers available within the science sector. Companies can also sponsor a local school to visit and attend industry days.

Centre for Industry Education Collaboration

CIEC supports companies in making credible and sustainable links with primary schools, in order to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. We train STEM professionals to improve their communication skills, and develop industry-focused activities for use directly by teachers or by ambassadors visiting schools.

Chemistry with Cabbage

We work with students of all ages, demonstrating through practical experiments, the relevance of chemistry in solving problems. Research shows that children make career choices very early on, so capturing their imagination early is important. Chemical companies are welcome to support our hands-on work in primary schools.

EngineeringUK

Not-for-profit organisation promoting the contribution made by engineers to society. We partner business and industry, government and the wider science & engineering community, producing evidence of the state of engineering. Sharing of knowledge and inspiring young people to choose a career in engineering.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Degree apprenticeships, consultation services, collaborative and contract research facilities, and students seeking placement opportunities. The Department of Natural Sciences trains undergraduate and postgraduate students in chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry, medicinal and biological chemistry, biology and environmental science. New MSc in Advanced Materials starting in September 2020 <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/natural-sciences>.

SEERIH

The Science & Engineering Education Research and Innovation Hub positively influences the experience of young people in science and engineering. Expertise in curriculum and teacher development, applied research and creation of innovative projects related to primary science and associated STEM disciplines. Inspiring excellence in teaching and learning in science education.

The Outward Bound Trust

An educational charity that uses the outdoors to help develop young people. Experts in the development of early talent and specialising in providing experiential learning and development programmes for apprentices and graduates. Identification, development and change of people behaviours in line with organisational needs.

TTE Training Ltd

Engineering training and apprenticeships focused on whole person development and bridging the sector's skills gap. The learning environment will be one which is welcoming, safe and inspiring, appropriate to the subjects and responsive to the needs of the learner.

University of Chester

Faculty of Science & Engineering offers new degrees in chemical engineering, electronic & electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, natural sciences alongside established degrees in mathematics and computer science. Close links to local chemical companies with student placements and collaborative research projects.

Wirral Met College

Provision of education and training, supporting innovation and development. The College is pioneering SIP traineeship programmes with local employers, preparing young people for science apprenticeships. New STEM Centre opened in 2016.

Engineering products & services

DHD Cooling Limited

Design, installation and maintenance solutions for industrial cooling. Our service extends to cooling system inspection, testing, service, maintenance and new equipment capability. Regulatory and reliability assessments, thermal performance improvements, turnkey projects and carbon footprint reduction.

HTS Engineering Group Ltd

Process safety and safety instrumented systems, delivered with a high level of engineering and expertise with cost efficiency. Four key engineering services that can be tailored individually or as one complete solution: process control & software engineering, engineering & design, site installation and inspection services.

Laker Vent Engineering Ltd

Supply, fabrication and installation of process and utility piping systems. Project management, detailing, procurement, on and off-site fabrication and installation of pipework and coded welding. Associated steelwork supporting and mechanical installation of plant and equipment. Testing and Handover. Pipework and steelwork is fabricated to specific customer-needs and conforms to all appropriate ISO, BS EN and ASME standards and specifications.

Know your supply chains

Lokring Northern (UK)

Special mechanical fitting system that produces a permanent weld equivalent pipe connection, eliminating the need for hot work, NDT and associated health and safety issues. Lokring fittings are code qualified to ASME B31.1, B31.3 and other industry standards. A proven cost saver compared to traditional welding and fabrication methods.

Manntek AB

Supply of safety dry disconnect and safety breakaway couplings. Comprehensive range of specialist dry quick release couplings to suit 99% of known chemical applications. Bespoke solutions with a size range of ¾" to 8" nb. Dry disconnect couplings are made to NATO standard Stanag 3756.

MCE Group

Offering valve service and overhaul in our state-of-the-art service workshops, or on site, using OEM parts, from single valves to complete outages.

European distributor for ValvTechnologies, providing severe service, zero-leakage isolation valve solutions, setting the standard for the next generation of valves for the chemical industry.

Perry Process Equipment Ltd

Buying and selling of high quality used processing plant and equipment. Savings of up to 70% on the cost of process equipment, full mechanical and electrical refurbishment and equipment immediately available from stock. Centrifuges, dryers, evaporators, filters, heat exchangers, mills, mixers, reactors, separators, tanks.

Studley Engineering Ltd

A multi-disciplined mechanical and electrical engineering contractor, providing a comprehensive service to the process industries in disciplines including: steelwork, welding, maintenance, site services, pipework, tanks and vessels. Over time we have gained an enviable reputation as a reliable, responsive, motivated contractor that delivers safe, high quality, cost effective work.

Swagelok Manchester

Fluid system solutions, products, training and services. Supply of over 7000 fluid system components including; fittings, hoses, tubing, regulators, equipment servicing and custom fabricated solutions. Provision of practical information, know-how, tools and speciality services needed to purchase, manage and apply them successfully.

Yokogawa

Yokogawa is a leading provider of field instrumentation, safety systems, industrial automation and digital transformation solutions.

IIOT, OT Cybersecurity and Alarm Management are specific areas of focus for Yokogawa's Advanced Solutions team with a number of major projects currently being delivered across Europe.

Engineering project management & energy

6 Engineering

Is a safety engineering consultancy for the major hazard industries specialising in process and functional safety. Our mission is to provide world class safety expertise, helping you to keep people and assets free from unnecessary risk. Our site engineers can be there to support you when you need us. See more at www.6engineering.co.uk

Axiom Engineering Associates Ltd

An award-winning company specialising in the provision of UKAS accredited inspection services, backed up by a mechanical and materials asset integrity section. Acting as the design and inspection authority to many blue-chip companies, working across a broad range of process sectors such as: chemicals, petrochemicals, bulk storage, power and pharmaceuticals.

Clarke Energy

Specialists in the engineering, installation and maintenance of reciprocating engine-based Combined Heat & Power (CHP) plants. Offering ranges from supply of an engine through to turn-key installation of a multi-engine power plant. Our facilities deliver fuel efficiency, dramatically lower energy costs and help reduce carbon emissions. Carbon dioxide can also be recovered.

Graham Hart (Process Technology) Ltd

Delivering high integrity heat transfer equipment for over 45 years. The company has a strong emphasis on Chemical/Process & Mechanical Engineering backed up by an advanced manufacturing facility.

Otto Simon Ltd

Diverse engineering consultancy and project delivery organisation. Initial consultations, technical and commercial due diligence and front-end design and definition. Feasibility studies through design, supply, erection, and commissioning services using in-house and licensed technology. Services for complete plants or upgrades. Procurement, construction management, start-up and operation & maintenance expertise.

PM PROJEN

A multi-disciplined engineering, design and project management business working across a range of market sectors for a diverse mix of clients from SMEs to multinational blue-chip companies. We are part of PM Group, a 2,200 strong, employee owned company operating across Europe, Asia and the USA.

Engineering, IT & process consultants

EJ Peak Technology Solutions

Process control, industrial automation systems and manufacturing analytics. A unique combination of automation projects, consultancy, and performance improvement services delivered by experienced teams. FEED, process control projects, legacy asset replacements, control room and operational technology, modern manufacturing analytics solutions.

Gexcon UK Ltd

Safety and risk management and advanced dispersion, explosion and fire modelling. Unique expertise and shared knowledge on how to prevent explosion accidents. Carrying out accident investigations and dedicated facilities for physical testing. Ventilation and dispersion modelling also available. Hazardous area classification and quantitative and qualitative risk analysis and assessment.

HFL Consulting Ltd

A unique blend of leadership, management, consulting, engineering and training services is offered to the chemicals industry. A forerunner in sustainable process safety management combined with proven business improvement capabilities enables delivery of practical solutions to promote safety and efficiency in design, operation and maintenance of complex hazardous facilities.

Intersolia

Intersolia provides large organisations and small firms with a web-based platform designed to enable them to achieve COSHH compliance, and most importantly providing those who use chemicals as part of their everyday workplace activities with the critical safety information needed to safeguard their health and in doing so, protecting the business.

Siemens Digital Factory & Process Industries and Drives

Productivity and efficiency requirements continuously increase in the field of process automation. A comprehensive range of process automation and Drives products as well as an award-winning range of training and support services.

Environment, health & safety risk management

ABS Consulting

A global process safety consultancy and training services provider with regional headquarters in Warrington, UK. Our expertise in data-driven risk and reliability includes a range of capabilities: root cause analysis, incident investigation, organisational culture evaluation, risk management, process hazard analysis, bow-tie and data science techniques. Our approved process safety leadership training courses and proficiencies also include building risk assessments, HAZOP analysis, compliance auditing, asset integrity management competency assurance and management systems certification services.

BakerRisk Europe Ltd

Dedicated to help predict, prevent and mitigate hazards and explosions, fires and toxic releases. Specialising in process safety and risk management, we help clients understand their risks and offer cost-effective risk management solutions. Success is delivered through proven knowledge and experience, innovative research and unique engineering capabilities.

Chemical and Industrial Consultants Association

An association of independent consultants with extensive experience, many having worked in the chemical industry, across various fields. Provision of technical and business advice on almost every aspect of chemical manufacture, development, marketing and management.

RAS Ltd

Expertise that covers the full range of risk assessment and management services across; safety risk, business risk and environmental risk. Carry out Quantitative risk Assessments and Predictive & consequence modelling, through 'softer' risks affecting an organisation's reputation.

RPS Group

Provision of specialist consultancy to help those with responsibility for health and safety achieve compliance. With particular expertise in the chemicals sector, we provide support from plant development through to operation. Core services include: ATEX/DSEAR, asbestos, BowTie analysis, CDM, COMAH support, fire safety engineering, functional safety, hazard identification, Legionella, occupation health and risk assessment/analysis.

Facilities, finance and other business services

ChemQuest Ltd

Sourcing and procurement solutions for research and development. Expertise in biochemical, chemical, nanotechnology, cell cultures, equipment, consumables and sundries. Streamlining and simplification of importing and purchasing processes.

Department for International Trade – Northwest

Operational support for British exports as well as facilitating inward and outward investment activity. Support is given to first-time exporters or established exporters requiring more help with accessing more difficult markets or putting strategic alliances in place. Access to expert advice, trade services, training and events.

Falck Fire Services UK

A leading, global and dedicated emergency services provider and fire-fighting specialist to high risk industries. Tailored outsourcing contracts and a high quality integrated fire protection system. Incident fire training courses for emergency response teams, including practical scenarios. Consulting services specialising in fire and explosion hazard management

Grant Thornton UK LLP

One of the world's leading organisations of independent advisory, tax and audit firms. We help dynamic organisations unlock their potential for growth by providing meaningful, forward looking advice. Provision of assurance, tax and advisory services. A dedicated Innovation practice that has an enviable track record of working with successful and dynamic companies to realise their ambitions for growth.

Halton Borough Council

World renowned research facilities such as Sci-Tech Daresbury and The Heath alongside many companies at the cutting edge of science, technology and advanced manufacturing. We oversee capacity in terms of land, buildings, people and business support creating a world class location.

Pen Underwriting incorporating OAMPS

Specialist Insurance services to high hazard manufacturing and haulage industries. Motor fleets, property, liability and transit policies. We help clients minimise risk through proactive risk management and a range of training and response services to assist companies in planning for and dealing with incidents and emergencies.

Sci-Tech Daresbury

We are a national science and innovation campus, and enterprise zone providing a range of office, laboratory and workshop accommodation for technology companies (from a desk to large laboratory and office units). Companies have access to a range of facilities covering material analysis, virtual design & simulation, and rapid prototyping.

STFC Innovations Technology Access Centre

A unique, fully equipped space for innovation, research and development. Providing flexible access to laboratory space, "hot labs" and scientific equipment. Ideally suited to start-up companies, smaller and medium size enterprises and R&D team from established companies.

TW Languages Ltd

Provision of a professional and reliable multi-lingual translation service delivering high quality translations. We specialise in business, technical and scientific translations into 250+ language combinations. We provide certified translations for legal purposes. We are full members of the ATC & EUATC and ISO 17100 Translation Services certified.

Laboratory products, testing and services

Labtex Ltd

Suppliers of leading laboratory products and process scale-up equipment. The list includes: HUBER liquid temperature control systems, DIEHM glass reactors to 100 l, PREMEX and AMAR high pressure autoclaves, POPE wiped film or short path evaporation and distillation, Nutsche filter dryers and many more.

Smithers Viscient

Environment at testing and regulatory services, carrying out environmental, consumer safety contract research and regulatory services. Plant metabolism, aquatic ecotoxicology, avian toxicology, environmental fate, honeybee and pollinator testing, endocrine disruptor testing, residue, analytical and product chemistry.

XCellR8 Ltd

A world leader in animal-free testing. Our GLP accredited laboratory provides ground-breaking in vitro safety tests for the chemical and personal care industries. We are passionate about delivering testing strategies that are both scientifically advanced and ethically sound. Our award-winning work is recognised at a regulatory level by the OECD and ECHA.

Legal & patents

Appleyard Lees LLP

Patent and trademark attorneys. Aim to obtain the best possible patent protection for clients. Experience of product clearance against competitor patents and in due diligence for mergers and acquisitions. Advice on licensing issues and collaboration agreements relating to IP.

Bawden and Associates

A legal firm providing professional services across all IP matters. Drafting and prosecution of patent applications, handling opposition and appeals in the EPO and in litigation in UK and international courts. Business led and strategic approach to generate assets of real commercial value..

Marks & Clerk LLP

Intellectual property services, advising start-ups, SMEs and multi-nationals with large global IP portfolios. Comprehensive range of IP services covering patents, trademarks, designs and copyright. Obtaining protection worldwide, portfolio management, strategic and commercial advice, licensing, enforcement, due diligence, valuations and litigation.

RW Legal Ltd

Provision of pragmatic legal advice to companies in the chemical sector. Particular expertise in drafting and negotiating commercial contracts. Managing legal risk through early involvement to save time and resources in the long run. Competitive rates and flexible fees without sacrificing quality.

Squire Patton Boggs (UK) LLP

Global legal company providing legal, regulatory and advocacy assistance to the chemical and performance material industries. Expertise that emphasises areas that mean the most to industry such as environmental, mergers and acquisitions, commercial finance, construction, litigation, IP, public policy and international expansion.

Symmetry Law

Specialist law practice structured to provide "partner" level experts at "junior" level prices, with a focus on the "high consequence" end of the spectrum. Legal services include: environmental, safety, regulatory, contracts, tax, construction, green incentives, litigation.

Withers & Rogers LLP

A leading UK and European intellectual property law firm with five offices including London and Munich. We offer a range of IP services including obtaining UK, European and worldwide patent or trade mark protection, the handling of contentious matters, advice surrounding licensing arrangements and issues including validity of patents and "freedom to operate".

WP Thompson

Intellectual property attorneys providing high quality advice to start-ups, SMEs or FTSE 100 companies. Team of experienced IP attorneys specialising in chemistry and life sciences, with first degrees and PhDs in these fields. Securing the most appropriate, cost effective and commercially valuable protection for your intellectual investment and innovation.

REACH and chemicals services

Dr Knoell Consult Ltd

An independent service provider for the chemical and related industries. Globally the Knoell group has over 450 employees covering all aspects of regulatory compliance for industrial chemicals, agrochemicals and biocides: e.g., strategic planning, dossier preparation, exposure assessment, SDS preparation, and from REACH to K-REACH!

GlobalMSDS

A complete safety data sheet/literature and regulatory service for your entire product communications in any language, style and format required. Hazmix is a new 'pay as you go' web-browser product that is setting a new standard in SDS authoring. A Solutions service that also provides technical advice.

Intertek Regulatory Services

Health, environmental and regulatory services for implementation of chemicals management. Worldwide registration of chemicals, food contact compliance and notification, global chemicals compliance, design/optimisation of toxicological and eco-toxicological studies, hazardous substance management, EU cosmetic and biocidal products compliance, classification & labelling, SDS consulting.

Stewardship Solutions Ltd

Provision of chemicals regulatory services to organisations across many industry sectors and throughout the world. REACH and CLP compliance is a primary focus, and REACH registrations programmes are a core strength. The company has achieved significant savings in the costs of REACH compliance on behalf of many of its SME clients. Stewardship Solutions is a REACHReady-approved service provider.

Yordas Group

Yordas Group is a leading provider of scientific, environmental, human health and global regulatory consulting services. They offer chemical regulatory support, expert scientific services and support on chemicals management and product stewardship, global hazard communication, hazard and risk assessment, analytical and (eco)tox testing.

Recruitment

Adepto Technical Recruitment

A specialist engineering, manufacturing and scientific recruitment consultancy that focuses upon the provision of permanent staff and contract resource to the Chemicals industry. Established in 2015, Adepto has quickly become the partner of choice for many blue-chip and SME manufacturers, engineering companies and consultancies due to our deep knowledge of the industry, credibility and professionalism.

Millbank

With over 30 years' experience providing recruitment solutions to major clients in the chemical sector, Millbank has an extensive database of experienced candidates and contractors ready to join projects across the region. A true recruitment partner, Millbank offers services ranging from contract and permanent placements through to fully managed services.

RMG

RMG is an award-winning headhunting consultancy with a difference - we make it our business to search and understand who's who in the Chemicals and STEM sectors and have the know-how to find talented people who will deliver lasting impact and add financial value to your organisation.

Science Recruitment Group

Experts in the recruitment of scientific, regulatory, quality, engineering and technical professional across all areas of the industry. Support in recruiting temporary, contract or permanent staff for your team.

Science Solutions Recruitment

Science Solutions Recruitment is a specialist science & technical recruiter with specific expert teams to service niche fields, including speciality chemicals, drug discovery, polymers, materials, cosmetics, personal care, household products, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology & medical devices.

TransitionPlus Ltd

Executive search for science-based organisations, talent development, outplacement and career transition support. Experienced chair, NED, coach and business development consultancy. The "Plus" is to ensure that considerable attention

Enter the Chemicals Northwest 2021 Awards - Deadline for entries 22nd January 2021

1. Engineering firm of the year 2021

Winning this award will represent the ultimate accolade for excellence in the supply of engineering products and services to this great industry. The scope is wide as we are aware of many engineering solutions that have led to success in the industry, from project management and maintenance support to process consultancy and equipment supplies.

2. Manufacturing company of the year award 2021 – sponsored by PM PROJEN

This award recognises how a company has demonstrated excellence in developing and bringing its products to market. It will also recognise significant operational improvements made to an established process. The winner will also have a clear plan for sustainable growth of the business and its contribution to the wider chemical industry in the region.



3. Health & Safety award 2021 – sponsored by Livent

This award will recognise exemplary practices or services that have made a chemicals operation safer or healthier. The winner will be able to demonstrate how a single, or range of site improvements or the provision of valued expertise, has significantly contributed to the improved safety performance of a chemical business, or a supply chain partner.



4. Sustainability award 2021 - sponsored by INOVYN

Recognition of how an organisation has demonstrated an innovative and holistic application of sustainability principles across a project and/or its wider business practice, leading to measurable positive change.



5. Operational excellence award 2021 – sponsored by CF Fertiliser

Successful practices in improving the efficiency and productivity of a chemical manufacturing process. The award winner will be able to demonstrate that real business improvements have been made following the implementation of a new project or operational programme.



6. International trade award 2021 – supported by Department for International Trade

Innovative approaches to effective exporting involving the latest systems and thinking. This will be awarded to a company that is new to, or experienced in, import/export and who has significantly developed their business in new markets or achieved an outstanding international trading record. This award is also open to service providers who have helped other businesses to take their international trading to new levels.



7. Innovation award 2021 – sponsored by HFL Consulting

Demonstration of creative solutions that present major commercial opportunities for a business. This award is open to individual organisations or academic/industrial collaborations. The winning recipient will be able to demonstrate how they have successfully invested in the research and development of a commercially viable new product, or enhancement to an existing product, or designed/modified and implemented a process that delivers demonstrable benefits to the business.



8. Young talent in the chemical industry award 2021 – sponsored by SRG

The contribution made by a young person to the success of a chemicals business or service provider. The award will also recognise the learning of vital business skills and their application in taking the organisation forward.



9. Charity of the Year award 2021 – sponsored by Valtris

If you represent a charity which you think deserves a special recognition, or you have been involved in charity events through the company you work for, or raise money for a charity, then please submit your entry. **Winners will also receive £1000 towards their charity.**



10. Supplier to the chemical industry award 2021

This award covers a broad scope of entries and the winner could be reflected within the provision of innovative problem solving anywhere in supply chains, to the chemicals sector. The winner will be able to demonstrate how their products or services have successfully responded to a customer problem and helped deliver effective supply partnerships.



There is a limit of 1000 words per entry and you may find the following helpful in structuring your entry.

1. Description of your entry (project/person/application etc)
2. How was it successful?
3. Why you think it should win the award



To enter the awards please email alex.abraitis@chemicalsnorthwest.org.uk by 3pm on Friday 22nd January 2021 with the title of the award as the email header and include your contact phone number.



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https://www.cia.org.uk/chemicalsnorthwest/awards_2021

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Most would agree that good business performance is linked to good operational and process safety performance, built on sound practices and procedures.

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