

NEWS RELEASE

Best of UK Business: MX2009 Finalists

IMechE MX Awards: If it's made well make something of it

25 March 2009

A top 20 of Britain's best businesses have been unveiled today for the prestigious Institution of Mechanical Engineers' (IMechE) Manufacturing Excellence Awards (MX) 2009.

Despite the credit crunch and economic climate taking its toll on the UK business and manufacturing sector, companies such as Coca-Cola and leading renewable energy firm, Aquamarine in Scotland, are all vying for one of 12 awards in MX – dubbed the 'Oscars' of the business world.

As Europe's most comprehensive best practice benchmarking scheme, MX offers a panel of industry experts giving up to £20,000 worth of free, impartial advice.

This year six firms from around the Midlands area have entered the scheme, including Dudley firm, Boss Design Limited, which falls under Business Minister, Ian Pearson's own local constituency.

He said today: "MX is an excellent scheme for companies to get involved in. The advice and expertise on offer from industry experts is probably more important than ever for firms and I am delighted to see that one from my own constituency has entered.

"Keeping the global competitiveness of UK manufacturing companies alive is vital to the economic success of our country so I am delighted to support MX which celebrates the best in industry."

MX judges from the Government's Manufactory Advisory Service (MAS), PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Warwick Manufacturing Group and other leading experts will tour the country accessing the short-listed firms to select the final winners which will be announced on 25 June.

There are 12 'Oscars' up for grabs including Product Innovation, Process Innovation, Best Finance Management, Best SME, Best Business Education Partnership and Sustainable Manufacturing. Past winners have included Rolls-Royce, Ford, Land Rover and BAE Systems and Wrightbus.

Statistics highlight that the manufacturing industry has tougher times ahead – and that companies need even more support from schemes like MX.

Reports show that the downturn has affected all sectors and regions, with motor vehicles firms suffering a sharp decline in output of almost 100%. This has had a knock on effect on other companies, including those that supply car manufacturers.

Chris Hibbs, manufacturing leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers, said: "Despite the most challenging economic conditions in decades these companies are proving to be successful and showing they can come out on top at the MX Awards. We are proud to support such a key initiative and see companies celebrated in difficult times."

PricewaterhouseCoopers are among leading experts from MAS, the Warwick Manufacturing Group, BP, InnovationXchange, Arup and Autodesk which are judging and supporting MX. Each firm that entered will receive a free Benchmark Report, worth up to £20,000, which will provide them with invaluable advice on how and where to improve performance.

MX 2009 Shortlist: Is Britain's Best Manufacturer in your area?

Scotland	Aquamarine Power Ltd Edinburgh	SELEX GALILEO Edinburgh	Converteam Glasgow	
Northern Ireland	Radox Laboratories County Antrim	Balcas Timber Ltd Enniskillen		
West Midlands	Boss Design Limited Dudley	ZF Lemforder UK Ltd Solihull	Hozelock Sutton Coldfield	JSC Rotational Ltd Worcestershire
East Midlands	3M Healthcare Ltd Loughborough	Greenbank Group UK Derbyshire		
South East	Coca-Cola Enterprises Ltd London	Elster Metering Ltd Luton	SELEX Galileo UK Luton	
North West	3M Health Care Limited Lancashire	Leyland Trucks Ltd Preston	Texecom Limited Blackburn	

North East		ContiTech Beattie Ltd Northumberland		
Yorkshire	Agfa Graphics Leeds	Gripple Ltd Sheffield		

Media wanting more information can contact IMechE Press Office on 020 7304 6888 or email media@imeche.org

Notes to Editors

- The MX Awards are believed to be the UK's longest running business awards and were established by the IMechE 27 years ago to protect manufacturing and promote best practice.
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) first established its Manufacturing Excellence Awards scheme in 1981. In 1999 the process underwent a major review when the Self Assessment Audit and Benchmark Report were introduced. The IMechE now has around 78,000 members in 120 countries. It represents mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. For more information on MX please visit www.mxawards.org or www.imeche.org.
- All media enquiries should be directed to the IMechE Press Office on 020 7304 6888 or email media@imeche.org. Visit www.mxawards.org