

# Winners' Report

# The Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2025

It has been a privilege to shine a spotlight on the incredible innovations shaping the UK's manufacturing landscape. The Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2025 celebrate the people, solutions, and partnerships powering real progress — from digital transformation to smarter supply chains, sustainability breakthroughs, and automation at scale.

We were overwhelmed by the standard of entries and inspired by the stories shared. These winners reflect what's possible when deep expertise meets bold ambition — not just in the largest firms but also from agile disruptors and niche specialists rising to the moment.

While this is the inaugural year of these awards, it already feels like an essential addition to *Manufacturing Today's* mission: to inform, champion, and connect the sector. Our editorial team, in collaboration with our independent Advisory Board, approached this program with care — seeking out not just innovation in name, but innovation with **impact**.

Whether you're a winner, nominee, or simply reading this report for inspiration — I encourage you to explore these stories and celebrate what they represent: excellence, resilience, and a shared commitment to the future of manufacturing in the UK.



*Libbie Hammond*

**Libbie Hammond**  
Editor  
**Manufacturing Today**

I'd personally like to thank our advisory board for their time and valuable input.

**Adrian Pinder**  
Head, Digital and Data  
**DS Smith UK**

**Nikolay Burlutskiy**  
Senior Manager GenAI Platforms  
**Mars**

**Phill Elston**  
Operations Director  
**Brompton Bicycle**

**Ioana Hera**  
Head of Improvement  
**Rolls-Royce**

**Sudesh Jog**  
Vice President,  
Data & Analytics,  
UK & North America  
**Apetito UK**

**Paul Knight**  
VP, IT & CISO  
**Turntide Technologies**

**Filip Nowak**  
Global Head of Cyber Defense  
**Ferrero**

**Malgorzata Samuel**  
Operations Data  
Standards Manager  
**McCormick & Company**

**Mike Wilson**  
Chief Automation Officer  
**MTC – Manufacturing  
Technology Centre**

**Karol Herta**  
Head of Group IT/OT  
Convergence Strategy  
**Merck**

**Navin Rauniar**  
Non Executive Director  
**PRMIA UK**

**Christina Finlay**  
Global Head of Data & Analytics  
**Volvo Cars**

**Emma Verhagen**  
Global Technology &  
Demand Director  
**Unilever**

**Mahendra Jape**  
Co-founder and CEO  
**Data Angles**

**Mohammad Hassan Khalid**  
Senior Engineer, Machine  
Learning and Data Science  
**AstraZeneca**

**Dr Mostafizur Rahman**  
Chief Technologist for  
Artificial Intelligence  
**MTC – Manufacturing  
Technology Centre**

**Ravi Jay**  
Head of Agile Delivery  
**Jaguar Land Rover**





## digiBOX Industrial: Next-generation edge amplifier

- Engineered for Industry 4.0
- Unlock smarter, more efficient, and sustainable industrial processes
- Winner: "Most Innovative IoT Solution" – Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards 2025



[LEARN MORE](#)



**mt** Manufacturing Supplier Innovation  
**AWARDS UK<sup>2025</sup>**  
**WINNER**

## Most Innovative IoT Solution



Martin Schütz - Product Manager, Smart Sensor

## Hottinger Brüel & Kjær

Digitize your industrial processes, boost accuracy, efficiency, and reliability, and start innovating with HBK's IO-Link smart sensors.

With their integrated signal-processing capabilities and standardized, intuitive, bidirectional communication interfaces, our IO-Link sensors enable a range of exciting new possibilities for smart manufacturing, monitoring processes, and machine digitization.

Built-in microprocessors, complete with signal preprocessing functions, offer reliable ways to analyze and interpret data. Linearization and compensation algorithms greatly reduce uncertainty in your measurements, enhancing precision. You can make swift, domain-specific calculations, advancing business-critical, data-driven decision-making.

HBK's expertise encompasses mechanical sensor types like strain, force, torque, sound, and vibration. Our deep knowledge of domain-specific signal processing has helped us develop smart sensors capable of impressive application-specific calculations and monitoring tasks. These smart sensors allow you to decentralize, adopting exciting new system architectures, testing processes and types of monitoring – unlocking a new era of production and testing.

We support you through the entire product life cycle, ensuring exceptional quality while furthering your mission for a cleaner, healthier, more productive world – sustainable in every sense of the word.

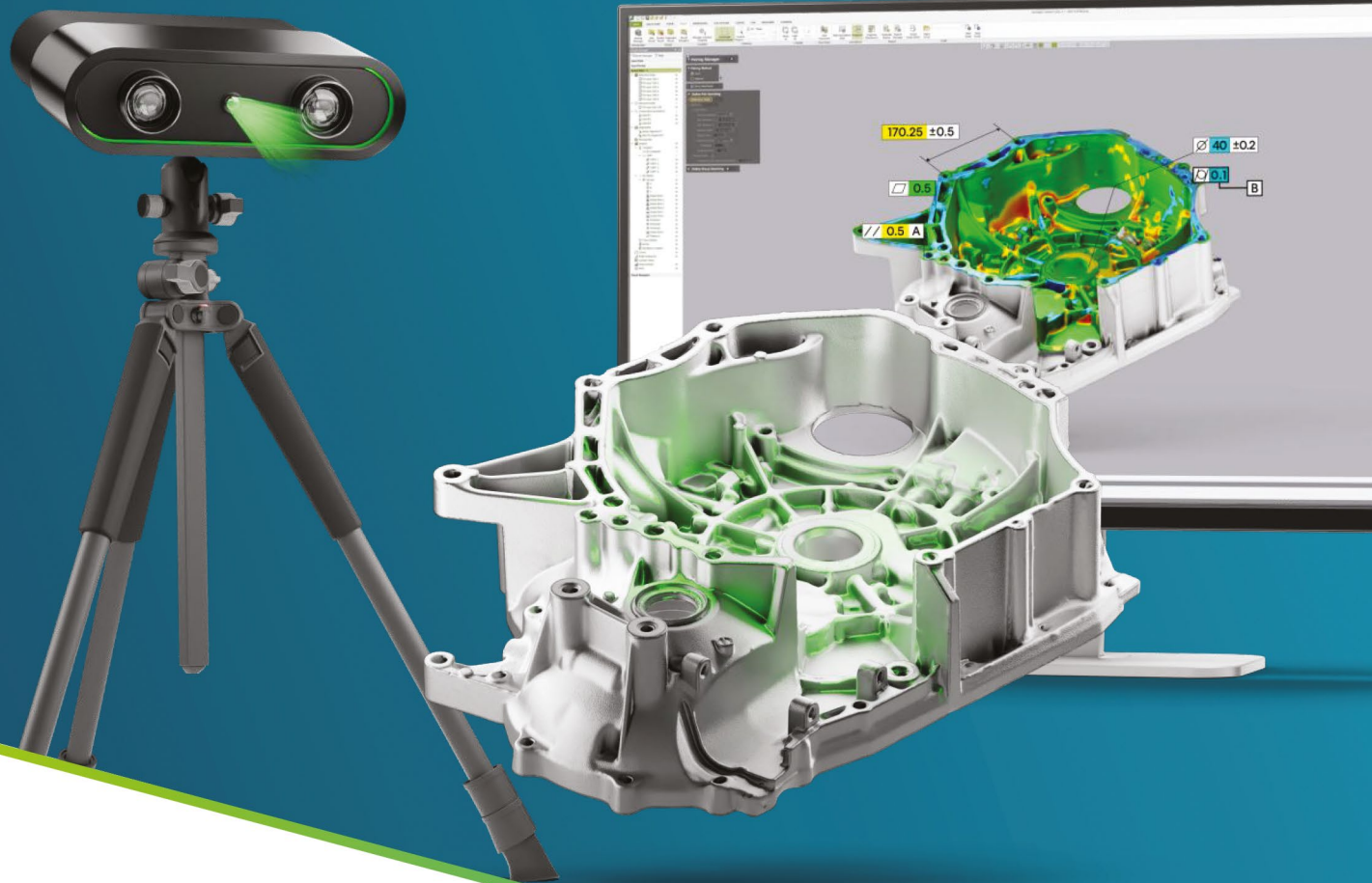


<https://www.hbkworld.com/en>





**Cx** Geomagic Control X



## Automate Your Inspection Routines

Automate repetitive and complex tasks easily with Geomagic Control X using any portable 3D scanner. Winner of the Manufacturing Today awards for Most Innovative Quality Control Solution.

| [www.geomagic.com](http://www.geomagic.com)



**mt** Manufacturing Supplier Innovation  
**AWARDS UK<sup>2025</sup>**  
**WINNER**

Most Innovative Quality  
Control Solution



Sean Parker, Product Manager, Geomagic Control X

## Hexagon: Geomagic Control X

Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence recently acquired Geomagic Control X, industry-leading professional metrology software that transforms how you measure, inspect, and ensure quality. Bringing the power of 3D scan-based inspection to more people in more places, Geomagic Control X makes it easy to interpret scan data and report results. With strong workflow automation capabilities, Control X provides validated accuracy with NIST, PBT and NPL standards organizations, which Hexagon plans to build upon by integrating its exceptional Hexagon GD&T libraries. Geomagic Control X integrates seamlessly with advanced 3D scanning technology, enabling manufacturers to monitor, analyze, and improve product quality throughout production, reducing costs and enhancing overall operational efficiency.



**HEXAGON**

[www.geomagic.com](http://www.geomagic.com)







# Energising Manufacturing Excellence with SEFE Energy

SEFE Energy supports manufacturing businesses of all sizes with tailored gas, electricity, and low carbon solutions.

From high consuming single sites to complex multi-sites, we act as your strategic partner in energy management.

Our specialists understand that energy is a strategic commodity, not just a utility. Partner with SEFE Energy to manage your energy efficiently and keep your operations running smoothly.

[www.sefe-energy.com](http://www.sefe-energy.com)

 @ SEFE Energy UK





**mt** Manufacturing Supplier Innovation  
**AWARDS UK<sup>2025</sup>**  
**WINNER**

## Most Innovative Energy Management Solution



Sam Sherlock, Head of Corporate UK

## SEFE

SEFE Energy is a leading energy supplier, providing a comprehensive range of natural gas, electricity and low carbon energy solutions to over 50,000 customers within the European wholesale and retail energy markets.

Our pan-European team of energy specialists, strategically located in the UK, Germany, France, the Netherlands and Belgium, work collaboratively to meet the evolving needs of our customers.

As strategic partners, we help organizations overcome their most significant challenges – from navigating the complexities of today's dynamic energy market to taking their next steps toward decarbonization.

SEFE Energy is part of SEFE group. As an international energy company, SEFE ensures security of supply and drives the decarbonization of its customers. Together, we as SEFE are committed to securing energy, now and for the future.



**SEFE**

<https://www.sefe-energy.co.uk/>





# M-Files®

## Achieve Operational Excellence with Knowledge Work Automation

*Leverage automation: Optimize your information flows across systems, processes, departments, and vendors.*



m-files.com



### Connect Systems and Drive Process Efficiency

Integrate all systems to manage information and automate processes with a flexible and scalable solution.



### Organize Your Data across Departments and Vendors

Facilitate the use of business information across any context - internally and externally.



### Ensure Quality and Compliance

Embed quality and compliance controls: Automate permissions and audit trails.



Manufacturing Supplier Innovation  
**AWARDS UK** 2025

# WINNER

**M-Files**

Most Innovative  
Document Management Solution

Powered by  
**A-TEAMGROUP**

**mt** Manufacturing Supplier Innovation  
**AWARDS UK<sup>2025</sup>**  
**WINNER**

## Most Innovative Document Management Solution



From left to right: Samppa Lahtinen, Senior Industry Solutions Manager and Ville Somppi, Sr. Vice President, Industry Solutions

## M-Files

M-Files is the leading platform for knowledge work automation. With the M-Files platform, knowledge workers can find information faster, work smarter, and achieve more. M-Files features an innovative metadata-driven architecture, embedded workflow engine, and advanced artificial intelligence. This enables customers to eliminate information chaos, improve process efficiency, and automate security and compliance.

In today's competitive manufacturing landscape, achieving operational excellence is paramount for driving growth and profitability. However, manufacturers often face significant challenges such as inefficient manual processes, fragmented information management, and limited quality and compliance controls.

Digital transformation, particularly through the integration of knowledge work automation and artificial intelligence (AI), can address these challenges. By leveraging advanced technologies, manufacturers can streamline workflows, optimize resources, and make data-driven decisions, ultimately enhancing productivity, reducing costs, and improving quality control.

This comprehensive approach highlights the importance of digital transformation, the role of AI, and the benefits of automating knowledge work, offering a roadmap for manufacturers to achieve organizational excellence.

## M-Files®

*The Smarter Way to Work.*

<https://www.m-files.com/>





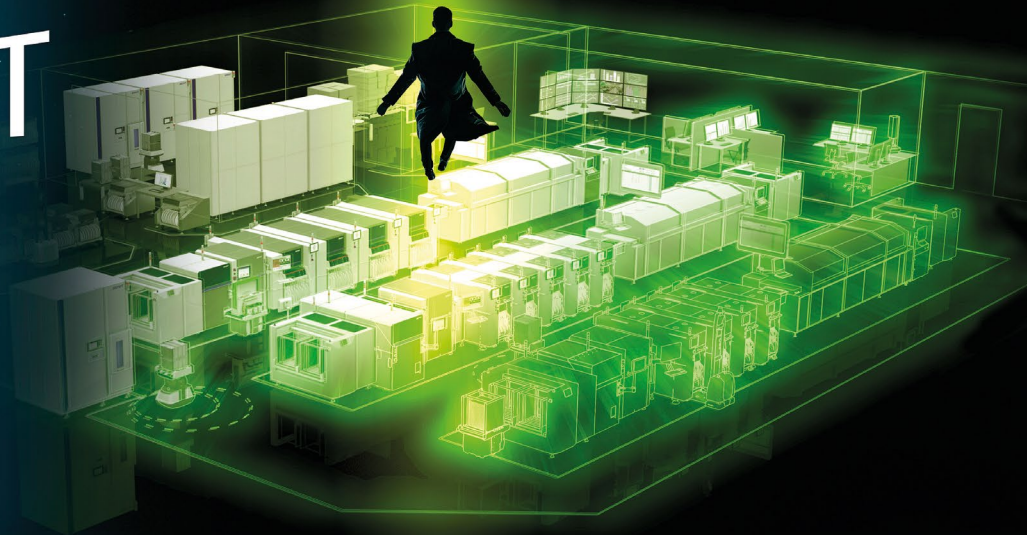


**Critical**  
manufacturing  
an ASMP company

If your **factory data** looks  
like The Matrix...



YOU MIGHT  
NEED A  
NEW MES



[criticalmanufacturing.com](http://criticalmanufacturing.com)

**mt** Manufacturing Supplier Innovation  
**AWARDS UK<sup>2025</sup>**  
**WINNER**

## Most Innovative Manufacturing Execution System



Augusto Vilarinho, Head of Global Sales

## Critical Manufacturing

Critical Manufacturing delivers a highly sophisticated, fully integrated, modular MES solution with strong data management and analytical capabilities to accommodate the needs of the semiconductor, medical devices, electronics and industrial equipment industries.

Critical Manufacturing MES helps manufacturers stay ahead of stringent product traceability and compliance requirements; reduce risk with inherent closed-loop quality; integrate seamlessly with enterprise systems and factory automation and provide deep intelligence and visibility of global production operations. It ensures a modular, yet fully integrated management of shop-floor resources. The 30+ product capabilities are fully interoperable and provide real-time visibility and control across global manufacturing operations.

As a result, manufacturers can achieve connected, automated and knowledge intensive production with a system that:

- Provides broadest functionality for efficiency
- Ensures full material traceability
- Ensures process integrity with recipe management
- Performs advanced recipe and tooling management
- Enables complete equipment tracking
- Increases speed of learning with experiments management
- Integrates equipment seamlessly
- Ensures connectivity and full automation
- Deploys easily on cloud, on-prem or hybrid

Critical Manufacturing has been recognized as a Leader by top analysts such as Gartner, IDC and Frost & Sullivan.



[www.criticalmanufacturing.com/](http://www.criticalmanufacturing.com/)





# Meet the Industrial Intelligence generation

Are you ready to  
join Generation i?



**AVEVA**  
Industrial Intelligence

**mt** Manufacturing Supplier Innovation  
**AWARDS UK<sup>2025</sup>**  
**WINNER**

## Most Innovative Master Data Management Platform



Caspar Herzberg, CEO

## AVEVA

AVEVA is a global leader in industrial software, sparking ingenuity to drive responsible use of the world's resources. The company's secure industrial cloud platform and applications enable businesses to harness the power of their information and improve collaboration with customers, suppliers, and partners. Over 20,000 enterprises in over 100 countries rely on AVEVA to help them deliver life's essentials: safe and reliable energy, food, medicines, infrastructure and more. By connecting people with trusted information and AI-enriched insights, AVEVA enables teams to engineer efficiently and optimize operations, driving growth and sustainability.

Named as one of the world's most innovative companies, AVEVA's open solutions draw on the expertise of more than 7,000 employees, 5,000 partners and 5,700 certified developers. AVEVA helps accelerate smart manufacturing and a connected ecosystem, bringing data from plant systems, processes and assets together in the cloud to create an operational and scalable digital twin. AVEVA PI System offers an integrated portfolio of solutions that enables industrial operations to collect, cleanse, store, enrich and visualize real-time operations data—with full IT compliance. This makes it easier for operators, plant managers, data analysts and executives to optimize efficiency, ensure resilience and drive sustainability.

# AVEVA

<https://www.aveva.com/>





# WINNER

## Most Innovative Supply Chain Sustainability Solution

### Digital Catapult

Trialled in the consumer goods sector, the solution has demonstrated the potential to cut CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 15-30 per cent through a reduction in empty running by enabling industry-scalable transport collaboration.

L3's solution combines algorithmic matchmaking with Digital Catapult's Sequence, a privacy preserving, interoperable and decentralized data sharing infrastructure, to match typically unused vehicle capacity with orders across multiple organizations.

To learn how the solution can benefit your business, visit [digicatapult.org.uk/L3](https://www.digicatapult.org.uk/L3)



<https://www.digicatapult.org.uk/>



Amar Dhokia, Senior Product Manager



## Special Editors Award: Most Innovative Executive in Manufacturing

### Barry Leahey

Barry is President of Playdale who are the UK's leading manufacturer of children's playground equipment, and has distributors in over 50 countries. Playdale have won national Manufacturing and export awards, Barry personally receiving an MBE for services to International Trade in 2017. In addition Barry has been named IoD 'Global Director of the Year' and 'Cumbria Business Person of the Year', featuring in the 'Telegraph's Top 50 Most Ambitious Business Leaders' and 'The Manufacturer Top 100 people in Manufacturing'. He is currently Vice Chair of Make UK North West regional Advisory Board, a Honorary Professor at Lancaster and Cumbria Universities and Non Exec Director for the Chamber of Commerce.



<https://www.playdale.co.uk/>



Barry Leahey MBE - CEO

## Special Editors Award: Factory of the Future

### Agratas

Agratas is a global business supercharging the transition to net zero developing next-generation battery technologies. Construction of its multi-billion-pound electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility near Bridgwater, Somerset is underway. The state-of-the-art facility will be dedicated to designing, developing, and producing high-quality, high-performance, and sustainable battery cells. By the 2030s, the facility could provide almost half of the EV batteries for the UK market.



<https://agratas.net/>



Chris Love - VP Process Engineering with Earl Wiggins - VP Manufacturing Operations

# AGRATAS





Manufacturing Supplier Innovation

**AWARDS**

**MORE  
WINNERS**



Most Innovative Automation Solution

**Adaptix Ltd**

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Most Innovative Supply Chain  
Workflow Simulation Solution

**AnyLogic**

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Most Innovative Big Data and Analytics Solution

**AstroNova**

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Most Innovative Water Management Solution

**Castle Water**

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Most Innovative SCADA Solution

**Design & Technical Services (UK) Ltd**

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Most Innovative Provider of Sustainable Materials

**Econic Technologies**

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Most Innovative Renewables Solution

**Enspec Power**

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Most Innovative ERP Solution

**Epicor**

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Most Innovative Predictive Maintenance Solution

**GE Digital**

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Most Innovative Solution for  
Managing Supplier Relations

**H Foster 1875 & Co Limited**

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Most Innovative AI Solution for Manufacturing

**IFS**

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Most Innovative Plant Recycling Solution  
**Just Recycling**

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Most Innovative Production Planning Solution  
**Katana**

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Most Innovative Demand Forecasting Solution  
**Kinaxis**

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Most Innovative Robotics Solution  
**KUKA Robotics**

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Most Innovative Use of Reverse Engineering  
Techniques in a Manufacturing Solution  
**KVS - QUICKSURFACE**

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Most Innovative Carbon Capture Solution  
**LanzaTech**

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Most Innovative Digital Transformation Solution  
**LK Metrology**

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Most Innovative Cybersecurity Solution  
**NCC Group**

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Most Innovative Digital Twin Solution  
**NVIDIA**

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Most Innovative Connectivity Solution  
**Optimal Drive Technology**

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Most Innovative Machine Tool Solution  
**RivRite**

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Most Innovative Solution for Process Automation  
**Schneider Electric**

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Most Innovative Factory Value  
Stream Mapping Solution

**Siemens**

---

Most Innovative Cloud Computing Solution

**Snowflake**

---

Most Innovative Materials Handling Solution

**Toyota**

---

Most Innovative Additive Manufacturing Solution

**Ultimaker**

---

Most Innovative Solution for  
Just-in-Time Manufacturing

**Unleashed Software**

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Most Innovative Solution for Waste Reduction

**Veolia UK**

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Most Innovative Procurement  
Management Solution

**Wesco Anixter**

---

Most Innovative Circular Economy Solution

**Wrapex Ltd**

---

Most Innovative Sustainable Packaging Solution

**WZ Packaging**

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Most Innovative Augmented Reality Solution

**Zebra Technologies**

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Most Innovative Inventory Management Solution

**Zoho**

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[www.manufacturing-today.com/awards](http://www.manufacturing-today.com/awards)

[awards@finelightmediagroup.com](mailto:awards@finelightmediagroup.com)