



mt Manufacturing Supplier Innovation
AWARDS UK²⁰²⁵

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



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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.

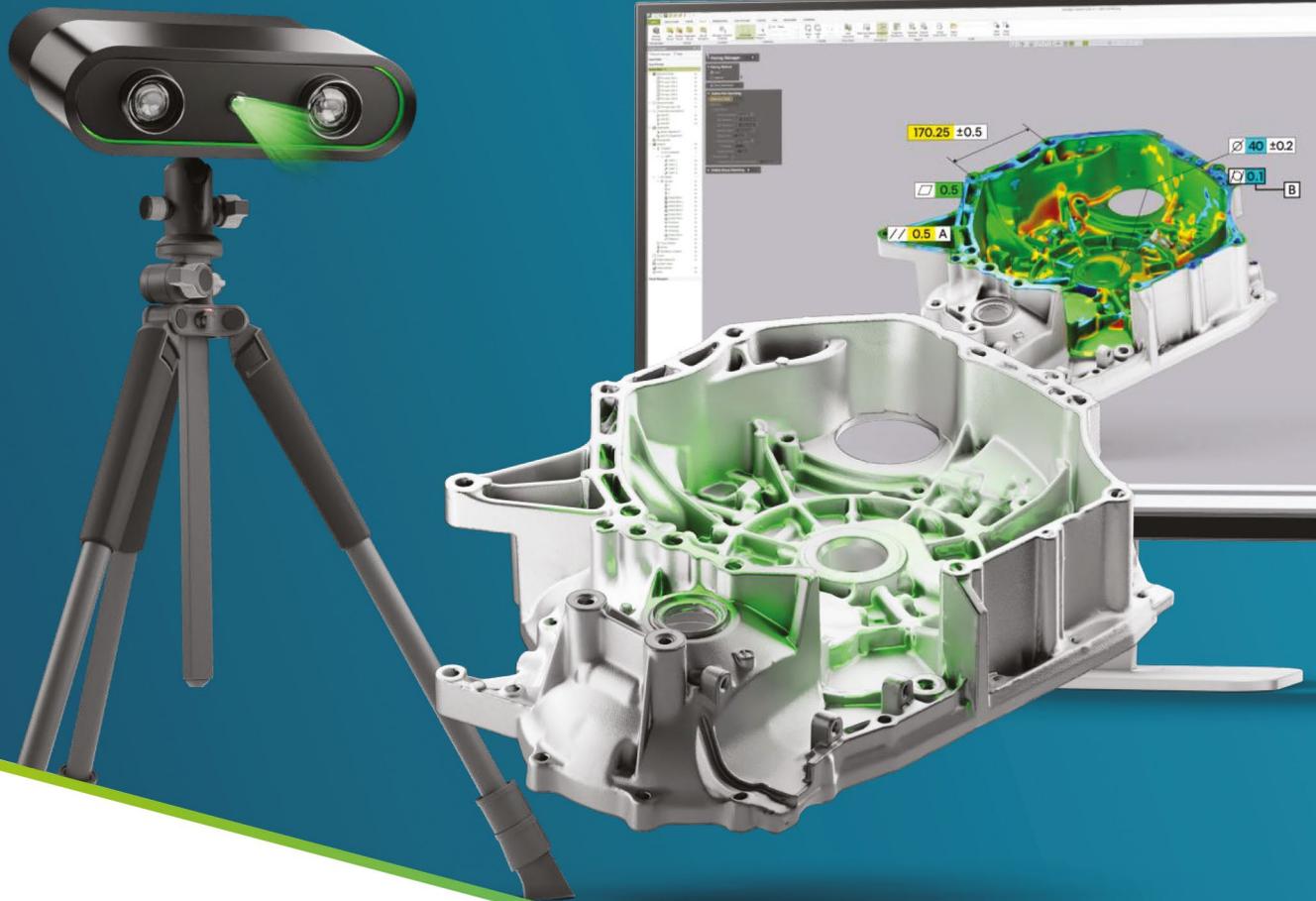
We support you through the entire product life cycle, ensuring exceptional quality while furthering your mission for a cleaner, healthier, more productive world – sustainable in every sense of the word.



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



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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.



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

 @ SEFE Energy UK



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/>



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Achieve Operational Excellence with Knowledge Work Automation

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



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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.



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AWARDS UK²⁰₂₃

WINNER

M-Files

Most Innovative Document Management Solution

Powered by
A-TEAMGROUP

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/>



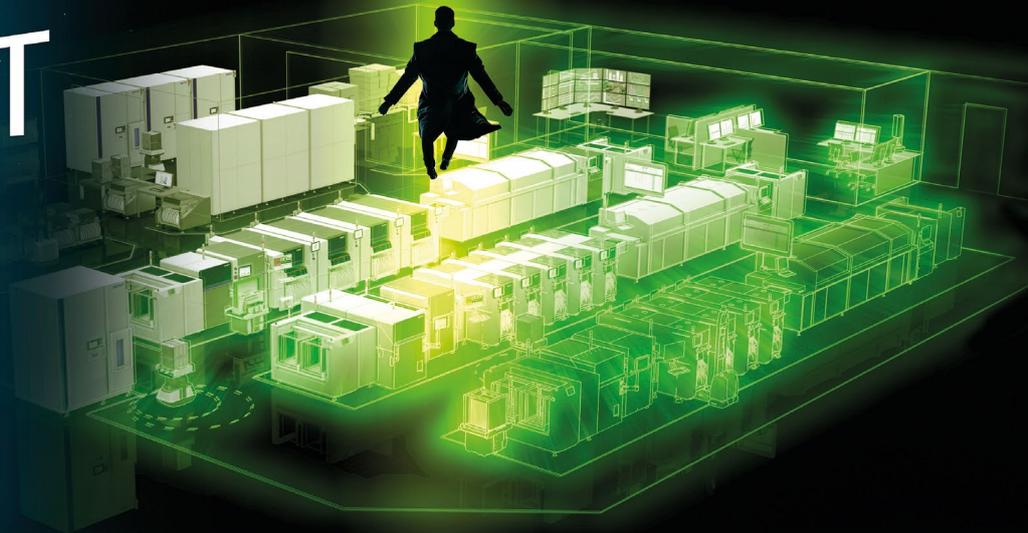


Critical
manufacturing
an ASMPT company

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



**YOU MIGHT
NEED A
NEW MES**



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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 reticle 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.



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Industrial Intelligence

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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 CO₂e 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 [digicat.org.uk/L3](https://www.digicat.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

Most Innovative Supply Chain
Workflow Simulation Solution

AnyLogic

Most Innovative Big Data and Analytics Solution

AstroNova

Most Innovative Water Management Solution

Castle Water

Most Innovative SCADA Solution

Design & Technical Services (UK) Ltd

Most Innovative Provider of Sustainable Materials

Econic Technologies

Most Innovative Renewables Solution

Enspec Power

Most Innovative ERP Solution

Epicor

Most Innovative Predictive Maintenance Solution

GE Digital

Most Innovative Solution for
Managing Supplier Relations

H Foster 1875 & Co Limited

Most Innovative AI Solution for Manufacturing

IFS

Most Innovative Plant Recycling Solution
Just Recycling

Most Innovative Production Planning Solution
Katana

Most Innovative Demand Forecasting Solution
Kinaxis

Most Innovative Robotics Solution
KUKA Robotics

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

Most Innovative Carbon Capture Solution
LanzaTech

Most Innovative Digital Transformation Solution
LK Metrology

Most Innovative Cybersecurity Solution
NCC Group

Most Innovative Digital Twin Solution
NVIDIA

Most Innovative Connectivity Solution
Optimal Drive Technology

Most Innovative Machine Tool Solution
RivRite

Most Innovative Solution for Process Automation
Schneider Electric

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

Most Innovative Solution for Waste Reduction
Veolia UK

Most Innovative Procurement
Management Solution
Wesco Anixter

Most Innovative Circular Economy Solution
Wrapex Ltd

Most Innovative Sustainable Packaging Solution
WZ Packaging

Most Innovative Augmented Reality Solution
Zebra Technologies

Most Innovative Inventory Management Solution
Zoho



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