



Manufacturing Supplier Innovation
AWARDS UK²⁰₂₆

Recognizing the innovators behind industrial transformation

Introducing the Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026

Manufacturing often talks about transformation as though it arrives in a single breakthrough. The reality is usually far less dramatic. Progress tends to come from hundreds of smaller improvements, better data, more effective software, stronger connectivity, tighter processes and the people prepared to challenge established ways of working.

Over the past year, one theme has appeared repeatedly across the pages of *Manufacturing Today*. Manufacturers are becoming increasingly selective about where they invest. The focus has shifted away from technology for technology's sake and towards solutions that can demonstrate clear business value, whether that means

improving productivity, reducing downtime, strengthening cybersecurity or giving decision-makers greater visibility of their operations.

The **Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026** recognize the companies helping to deliver those outcomes. The winners featured in this report represent a broad cross-section of the manufacturing ecosystem, from established industry leaders to specialist innovators tackling highly specific industrial challenges.

The awards focus on practical achievement and measurable results. The organizations recognized here are not simply responding to change within manufacturing. In many cases, they are helping to define what comes next.

“ One of the privileges of covering manufacturing is seeing how much innovation takes place beyond the factory floor itself. Many of the advances influencing the sector originate from suppliers, software developers, technology specialists and engineering partners. These awards recognize the organizations whose expertise and commitment are helping manufacturers operate more effectively in an increasingly demanding environment ”



Libbie Hammond, Editor
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Innovation with measurable impact

Spotlighting the technologies shaping modern manufacturing

Manufacturers are investing more carefully than at any point in recent memory. Pilot projects and technology demonstrations are no longer enough on their own. Organizations are looking for solutions capable of delivering measurable improvements in performance, efficiency and operational resilience.

The organizations recognized in this year's **Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026** reflect that reality. The winning solutions demonstrate how technology is being applied to address

practical challenges across production, operations and the wider supply chain.

Working alongside *Manufacturing Today's* editorial team, our independent Advisory Board assessed entries against criteria including industry relevance, customer outcomes and the ability to deliver meaningful value in real-world manufacturing environments. The companies featured in the following pages represent some of the most interesting developments currently taking place across the sector.



2026 Categories Recognized Include:

- Most Innovative AI Solution for Manufacturing
- Most Innovative Generative AI Solution for Manufacturing
- Most Innovative Manufacturing Execution System (MES)
- Most Innovative Digital Twin Solution
- Most Innovative Cybersecurity Solution
- ...and many more

The **Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026** are managed by **A-Team Group**, an award-winning media and events company with more than 20 years of experience delivering high-impact content and engagement across the global financial technology space.

Having hosted successful industry events in the **UK, USA, and Singapore**, A-Team now brings its proven approach to the manufacturing community — providing a

platform that connects innovators with recognition, credibility, and visibility.

A-Team Group is part of the **Finelight Group**, powering the events portfolio of **Finelight Media**, publisher of *Manufacturing Today*. Together, we're building a network that champions excellence, shares insight, and drives transformation across industries.

For more on A-Team Group, visit www.a-teamgroup.com

Driving industry forward

Recognition, reinforcement and responsibility

Recognition matters. Manufacturing is an industry built on expertise, continuous improvement and the willingness to solve difficult problems. Yet many of the advances that improve performance, reduce risk and strengthen competitiveness take place behind the scenes.

The **Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026** exist to bring those achievements into the spotlight. They recognize the companies, technologies and individuals making a genuine contribution

to the sector while providing manufacturers with insight into the solutions gaining momentum across the market.

To everyone who entered, thank you for sharing your work. To this year's winners, congratulations. Your achievements demonstrate the ingenuity, determination and technical excellence that continue to make UK manufacturing one of the country's most innovative industries.

manufacturing-today.com/awards



Measuring what matters

Base Materials is bringing greater visibility to the environmental impact of advanced composites

For years, manufacturers have focused on improving performance, reducing costs and accelerating development cycles. Sustainability has often been discussed alongside those priorities, but turning ambition into measurable action has proved far more difficult. Many organizations still struggle to access reliable product-level carbon data, making it challenging to compare materials, understand environmental trade-offs or support increasingly detailed reporting requirements.

For Base Materials, a UK manufacturer of high-performance materials and services serving sectors including aerospace,

automotive, motorsport, marine and subsea, that challenge became an opportunity. The company's proprietary dynamic Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) tool, developed in partnership with specialist consultancy MyCarbon, has earned recognition in the Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026 as the winner of the Most Innovative Provider of Sustainable Materials category.

The tool provides product-specific carbon footprint calculations across Base Materials' portfolio using a consistent cradle-to-gate methodology. Rather than relying on broad assumptions or generic industry averages, it is designed around the company's own formulations,

manufacturing processes and supply chain inputs, creating a more detailed understanding of environmental impact.

"The development of the tool was driven by increasing customer demand for more reliable environmental data, alongside our own desire to better understand the carbon impact of our products," Sophie Hudson, Head of Marketing at Base Materials, who is leading the charge on sustainability, explains. "We recognized very early on that commissioning individual lifecycle assessments for every product would not be practical. We wanted a scalable approach that could become part of our continuous improvement program rather than a one-off exercise."

Turning data into decisions

As sustainability requirements continue to evolve, manufacturers are facing growing pressure to provide greater transparency throughout their supply chains. Customers increasingly want evidence rather than broad sustainability claims, while procurement teams are beginning to place greater emphasis on environmental data when selecting materials and suppliers.

This creates a challenge for many organizations. Gathering accurate data across raw materials, manufacturing processes, packaging and logistics is often complex, particularly when products are highly specialized or produced in relatively low volumes. For Base Materials, building the tool required significant collaboration across the business.

"The biggest challenge was data quality and consistency," Sophie adds. "Creating meaningful product-level carbon assessments depends on detailed information from multiple sources. We worked through a process of validation, cross-checking and continual refinement, increasing the use of supplier-specific information wherever possible and improving the accuracy of the model over time."

The result is a platform that enables Base Materials to generate repeatable carbon footprint data across its product range while maintaining the confidentiality of its formulations and manufacturing expertise. The methodology aligns with recognized standards including ISO 14067, ISO 14044 and the GHG Protocol Product Standard.

That level of consistency is becoming increasingly important as manufacturers seek to compare materials, understand carbon hotspots and make more informed development decisions.



Supporting customers and innovation

While the tool has strengthened Base Materials' own sustainability capabilities, its greatest value may lie in how it supports customers. The ability to provide auditable product-level carbon data gives customers greater confidence when evaluating material choices, while also supporting Scope 3 reporting and wider sustainability initiatives. It has also enabled more detailed conversations around lifecycle impacts, extending beyond manufacturing to include use-phase considerations and potential end-of-life scenarios.

"One of the most valuable outcomes has been the way the tool supports collaboration with customers," Sophie says. "It allows us to have more informed technical discussions about material selection, carbon impact and product development. In some cases,

it has also supported wider lifecycle studies that help identify where the greatest environmental impacts occur and where meaningful improvements can be made."

Internally, the benefits extend beyond reporting. The tool has improved visibility of carbon hotspots, strengthened product optimization efforts and created new opportunities to evaluate environmental impacts earlier in the development process.

Increasingly, sustainability considerations are being incorporated alongside technical and commercial requirements rather than being treated as a separate exercise. "Our approach to innovation has always been practical and customer-led," Sophie explains. "We focus on solving genuine manufacturing challenges and increasingly that includes helping customers understand environmental performance in the same way they would evaluate cost, quality or technical capability."

Looking beyond compliance

Environmental reporting requirements will continue to evolve, but Base Materials believes the industry's relationship with sustainability data is also changing. Over the next two years, Sophie expects product-level environmental information to play a greater role in procurement decisions, product development programs and supply chain collaboration. Manufacturers will increasingly demand credible, application-specific data rather than broad sustainability statements.

To support that shift, Base Materials is already working on the next phase of development. Planned enhancements include updated production datasets, the addition of newly launched products, expanded packaging scenarios and greater consideration of end-of-life modelling. The company also sees opportunities to use the tool earlier in research and development

activities, helping teams assess environmental impacts before products reach the market.

Winning the Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Award provides recognition for that work and validates the effort involved in turning complex environmental data into something practical and commercially useful.

"This recognition is meaningful because it acknowledges the work that has gone into building a capability that supports both our business and our customers," Sophie concludes. "More importantly, it helps create better conversations about material choices, environmental impact and how manufacturers can make more informed decisions as sustainability becomes an increasingly important part of the industry's future." ■

www.base-materials.com



Manufacturing Supplier Innovation
AWARDS UK²⁰₂₆

**Winners'
Report**

The Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026

Manufacturing is entering a period of profound change. Across factories, supply chains and industrial operations, new technologies are reshaping how products are designed, produced and delivered. Artificial intelligence, automation, industrial data platforms, advanced connectivity and digital engineering tools are no longer future ambitions. They are becoming essential components of competitive manufacturing.

Behind every successful transformation sits a network of suppliers, technology providers and specialist partners helping manufacturers solve complex challenges, improve performance and unlock new opportunities.

The Manufacturing Supplier Innovation Awards UK 2026 recognize those organizations and the innovations making a measurable difference across the sector.

This year's winners demonstrate the breadth of innovation taking place throughout the manufacturing ecosystem. From established industry leaders to emerging specialists, they share a common focus on delivering practical solutions that improve efficiency, strengthen resilience, support sustainability goals and create lasting business value.

The standard of entries once again highlighted the remarkable depth of expertise within the sector. On behalf of the *Manufacturing Today* editorial team and our Advisory Board, congratulations to all this year's winners and finalists. Their achievements provide a powerful reminder that innovation remains one of the defining strengths of UK manufacturing.



Libbie Hammond

Libbie Hammond
Editor
Manufacturing Today



Nikolay Burlutskiy
Senior Manager
GenAI Platforms
Formerly Mars



Romi Dhillon
Senior Manager-
Digitalization
Atlas Copco



Phill Elston
Director of
Operational Excellence
AMATEK



Christina Finlay
Global Head of Data
& Analytics
Volvo Cars



Walid Hadid
Group Head of Digital
and Automation
The Weir Group PLC



Ioana Hera
Head of Improvement
Rolls-Royce



Lilian Ho
Associate Director -
Digital & BIM; AECOM and
AI Masters Program Director
ZIGURAT Institute
of Technology



Paul Knight
Group VP Information
Technology and Security
Martin-Baker Aircraft
Company



Dr Yaniv Naor Nahoum
Director of Master
Data Management &
digital transformation
business strategist
Formerly Sandoz



Adrian Pinder
Digital, Data, AI
Transformation,
Gen AI Advisor
NordMind AI



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



Malgorzata Samuel
Operations Data
Standards Manager
BAT

mt Manufacturing Supplier Innovation
AWARDS UK²⁰²⁶
WINNER



Sophie Hudson, MCIM, Chartered Marketer, Head of Marketing

Most Innovative Provider
of Sustainable Materials

Base Materials

Base Materials is an expert in high-performance syntactic materials, supplying high-quality solutions to customers globally for more than 20 years.

Although you won't see our products directly, they are behind the manufacture of a wide range of products found in commercial environments, on the road, in the sky and in our oceans. They're expertly crafted to meet the demands of the toughest applications and the highest technical requirements.

We're known for providing innovative technology and outstanding service. Whether you need specialist composite tooling board materials for automotive, aerospace, foundry, manufacturing or marine applications, or low-density subsea buoyancy materials, we've got you covered.

But it's not just what we produce, it's our commitment to you that counts.

Our approach is collaborative. We're with you every step of the way. We take time to understand your needs and add value wherever we can. A partnership built on collaboration, transparency, and trust with customers is at the heart of what we do.

We're committed to operating responsibly and reducing our environmental impact. We provide clear, verifiable environmental data wherever possible, helping customers make informed, evidence-based decisions and supporting more sustainable manufacturing outcomes.

We are Base Materials.



www.base-materials.com



mt Manufacturing Supplier Innovation
AWARDS UK²⁰²⁶
WINNER



Mark Rhoden, Senior Director, Field Operations EMEA

Most Innovative Digital
Transformation Solution

Minitab

For more than 50 years, Minitab has helped organizations transform complex data into better decisions and measurable improvements in processes and quality. What began as software to help students understand and apply statistics in the real world evolved into an end-to-end solutions platform trusted globally by manufacturers for data analytics, quality improvement, and operational excellence.

Today, Minitab provides a powerful suite of solutions that help manufacturers and other organizations collect, connect, analyze, simulate, monitor, and improve their data-driven processes. From Minitab® Statistical Software and Minitab Solution Center™ to real-time process monitoring, manufacturing data collection, OEE, simulation and digital twins, and continuous improvement solutions, Minitab helps organizations improve quality, increase throughput, reduce waste and downtime, and make more confident decisions.

Trusted by leading organizations in more than 100 countries, Minitab supports customers at every stage of their digital transformation journey with flexible deployment options, including cloud, on-premise, and hybrid environments. Built to be powerful, accessible, and easy to use, Minitab solutions also support customers with optional AI-empowered capabilities.

As manufacturers face growing pressure to improve efficiency, strengthen resilience, and navigate an increasingly complex global environment, Minitab helps organizations unlock the full value of their data to drive measurable, sustainable results.

Learn more at www.minitab.com.

Minitab

<http://www.minitab.com/>



Most Innovative Circular Economy Solution



Jana Bujnakova, Strategic Business Development Manager, Zebra Circular Economy Programme EMEA

Zebra Technologies

Zebra Technologies (NASDAQ: ZBRA) provides the foundation for intelligent operations with an award-winning portfolio of connected frontline, asset visibility and automation solutions which empower our customers to deploy AI on the frontline. Our innovative offerings are trusted by organizations globally, spanning sectors that include retail, manufacturing, transportation & logistics, healthcare and the public sector. As the market leader in mobile computing, data capture, RFID readers, thermal printing and task management software, we deliver impactful results for our customers today, while driving innovation for what's next. Together with our partners, we create new ways of working that improve productivity and empower organizations to be better every day. Our sustainability priorities of human capital management, resource conservation, and climate are foundational to our business. More than ever before, our success relies on integrating sustainability into the way we operate and serve customers. Our customers seek to operate more efficiently and responsibly, and our employees want to work for a company with purpose.

Learn more at zebra.com



www.zebra.com



Most Innovative ERP Solution



Chris Lloyd, Chief Solutions and Technology Officer, Syspro



Syspro

Syspro is a purpose-built platform for manufacturing and distribution, helping mid-sized companies operate and grow with confidence. With a cloud-first, AI-enabled foundation and nearly 50 years of sector expertise, Syspro is engineered around how the True Pros of industry buy, make, move, and sell. Its solutions bring clarity to complex operations, strengthen supply chains, and unlock measurable value through smarter planning and faster execution. From family-owned businesses to the world's most established manufacturers, Syspro keeps operations running, margins strong, and decisions well informed. Smarter. Faster. Built for Your Industry.

www.syspro.com

Most Innovative Hybrid Cloud/Edge Architecture for Manufacturing



Shaun Heys, Marketing Communications Manager, GCE



GCE

GCE Group is a global leader in gas control equipment, specializing in solutions for industrial, medical, specialty gas, and cutting and welding applications. With a history spanning more than 100 years, GCE designs, manufactures, and distributes regulators, valves, manifolds, and gas management systems that improve safety, reliability, and productivity. Serving customers in more than 100 countries, GCE combines engineering expertise, innovation, and local support to deliver high-performance gas control solutions worldwide.

www.gascontrol.com

Most Innovative Water Management Solution



Minhal A Rizvi, Global Product Manager - Standard Cartridge, Thin-Section & Slurry Seals, John Crane



John Crane

John Crane is a global leader in flow control technologies and an innovator in solutions for rotating equipment in the energy and process industries. Our portfolio spans mechanical seals, seal support systems, couplings and filtration systems, supported by advanced service solutions and digital diagnostics. With over 200 service, sales and manufacturing centres across 50 countries, John Crane is an integral pillar of Smiths Group plc, a FTSE 100 industrial technology company dedicated to engineering a better future.

www.johncrane.com

Most Innovative Document Management Solution

M-Files

M-Files is the Context-First Document Management system that has redefined how work gets done by organizing information based on what it is, not where it's stored. By connecting documents, people, projects and processes in a unified view, M-Files eliminates operational friction and gives business and IT leaders a performance advantage. M-Files is native to Microsoft 365 and integrated with leading business applications, enabling organizations to work in familiar tools while gaining enterprise-grade automation, governance and control.

www.m-files.com



Ron Greer - Regional Vice President, Sales UK, M-Files



Most Innovative Manufacturing Execution System (MES)

Operations Feedback Systems

OFS is a leading manufacturing intelligence platform that helps manufacturers improve productivity, reduce downtime and drive continuous improvement through operational visibility and workforce engagement. By combining production data, digital workflows and AI-powered insights, OFS empowers organizations to make faster, smarter decisions across the factory floor. Trusted by manufacturers globally, OFS enables businesses to transform operational performance, increase profitability and build more efficient, connected manufacturing environments.

www.ofsystems.com



Jonathan Newton, General Manager, and Thomas Nolan, Sales Director, Operations Feedback Systems (OFS)



Most Innovative Big Data and Analytics Solution

Ittransition

Ittransition has been a trusted IT partner to UK manufacturers for 27 years. We help manufacturers strengthen operations, improve day-to-day visibility, and apply AI where it creates measurable value. Our work spans connected manufacturing systems, ERP implementation and modernization, production control dashboards, and AI readiness — through to applied AI for quality control, predictive maintenance, and operational intelligence. We start with the business problem, identify the right solution path, and implement with practical value in mind.

<https://resources.ittransition.com/manufacturing>



Anastasia Barysenkava, Customer Success Executive, Manufacturing, Ittransition



M-Files

Manufacturing Runs on Documents. Make Them Work for You.



Reduce operational friction. Increase output. Ensure quality.

M-Files is the AI-powered document management platform built to help manufacturers eliminate complexity, improve collaboration, and make faster, more informed decisions.

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98% Audit-ready documentation on deployment

500+ Hours saved per year through automation

6,000+ Organizations trust M-Files globally



m-files.com

Most Innovative Executive

Mike England (Flowtech)

Mike England is a Master of Engineering with over 25 years in commercial and operational leadership across Industrial product distribution and services; including 7 years at FTSE100 RS Group plc and 9 years at FTSE250 Brammer Plc (now trading as Rubix). He was appointed as Flowtech CEO in April 2023.

Mike is passionate about creating a purpose-led, high performance culture, and he is committed to inspiring the next generation of engineers and giving back to the community.

 www.flowtech.co.uk



Mike England, Chief Executive Officer, Flowtech



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Featuring in 2026

- **Next-Gen Industry 4.0:** Agentic AI, flexible robotics, and the connected worker
- **Advanced Connectivity & Security:** Private 5G, Wi-Fi 7, and 'retrofit' cyber resilience
- **Smart Operations:** Integrated Business Planning (IBP) and modern MES strategies
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Contact **Ed Taylor** and connect with leaders ready to engage and drive solutions today. eventsales@finelightmediagroup.com

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UiPath

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Collaboration Solution (Cobots)
Robotiq

Most Innovative Automation Solution
TBS Engineering

Most Innovative Augmented Reality Solution
Gamma AR

Most Innovative Digital Twin Solution
KVS QUICKSURFACE

Most Innovative Cybersecurity Solution
NormCyber

Most Innovative Product Lifecycle
Management (PLM) Solution
ARAS

Most Innovative SCADA Solution
Schneider

Most Innovative Production Planning Solution
Katana

Most Innovative Inventory Management Solution
A2go

Most Innovative Quality Control Solution
AlisQI

Most Innovative Predictive Maintenance Solution
ERP AVEEROS (PVT) Ltd

Most Innovative Connectivity Solution
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Most Innovative Master Data Management
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SAP

Most Innovative Solution for Process Automation
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Most Innovative ESG Reporting Platform
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Most Innovative Energy Management Solution
Tecman Speciality Materials

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Recycleye

Most Innovative Solution for Waste Reduction

Veolia UK

Most Innovative Additive Manufacturing Solution

Base Materials

Most Innovative Sustainable Packaging Solution

FIORINI

Most Innovative Carbon Capture Solution

Cambridge Carbon Capture

Most Innovative Supply Chain
Sustainability Solution

Digital Catapult

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& Upskilling Solution

HowNow

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Peoplesafe

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Management Solution

DeepStream

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Kinaxis

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Most Innovative RegTech & Compliance Solution

Quantexa

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