



AWARD WINNERS

CELEBRATING THE STARS
OF THE GAS INDUSTRY

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Gas Industry Awards 2023**



WELCOME

In this special supplement, IGEM and EUA are proud to recognise the winners and runners up of the Gas Industry Awards 2023.

At this year's awards, hosted by comedian, Jo Caulfield, the winners were announced for each of our ten categories plus our Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Gas Industry Awards give recognition to those who contribute towards the gas industry with their outstanding efforts and innovations, showcasing their dedication and passion.



CEO of IGEM, Oliver Lancaster said: "The Gas Industry Awards celebrates the hard work our industry has been doing to support the energy transition to a more sustainable gas future.

"People across the industry are constantly adapting and inventing new ways to achieve net zero.

"Without the dedication, hard work and drive of the professionals in the industry,

we wouldn't be where we are today. So let's keep pushing forward and celebrating those that are making a difference along the way."

Mike Foster, Chief Executive at Energy & Utilities Alliance (EUA) said: "Many congratulations to our worthy winners. It is so inspiring to see the best our industry offers as we move to a decarbonised future, with gas at the very heart of net zero.

"Commiserations to those that just missed out this year, but the standard of entry this year was exceptional."

IGEM and EUA would like to thank the event sponsor, Cadent, our event speaker Jon Butterworth, CEO of National Gas, and host, Jo Caulfield.

Congratulations to all the winners
making a positive impact across our communities.



#EasierWarmth
#GreenerSociety
#FairerOpportunities

cadentgas.com

CELEBRATING THE STARS OF THE GAS INDUSTRY



Hosted by

JO CAULFIELD

Comedian, host and comedy writer. She has worked on some of the biggest shows, and with some of the biggest names, in British comedy.



Guest Speaker

JON BUTTERWORTH

Chief Executive Officer
National Gas

AWARD JUDGES

Andrew Musgrave

IGEM President
2023 - 2024 (Chair of Judges)



David Parkin

IGEM Past President
2022 - 2023



Chris Gorman

Chair of the IGEM Technical
Coordinating Committee



Robert Murray

EUA President
2022 - 2023



Dr Jane Haswell

Principal Consultant
Pipeline Integrity Engineers



Stewart Clements

EUA Director of the Heating and
Hot Water Industry Council (HHIC)



Jon is the Chief Executive Officer of National Gas. He brings over 40 years' experience in the gas industry to the role and has a strong track record of building successful businesses in regulated and competitive energy markets across the UK, Europe, and US.

He is responsible for the ownership and operation of the National Transmission System (NTS) in the UK, a 7,600km network of high-pressure pipelines, connecting upstream gas to large industry, gas storage facilities, power stations, and the Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) that serve millions of consumers. The Metering arm of the business manages a portfolio of more than 7 million meters across the UK, and provides installation and maintenance services to energy suppliers within the regulated market.

Previously, Jon was a member of the National Grid Group Executive and latterly Chief Executive Officer of its Gas Transmission and Metering business, leading it successfully through the process of the Group divesting its majority stake in the company. Prior to this, he was Managing Director of National Grid Ventures (NGV), where he successfully positioned the business as a recognised world leader in renewable energy and subsea electrical interconnectors, as well as securing a binding 20-plus-5 year LNG storage contract set to contribute around £45m operating profit per annum from 2026.

Jon previously held a number of senior positions within National Grid plc, including National Operations Director, Managing Director of North West Gas, and Global Director of Safety, Health, Environment, and Incident Command.

He was awarded the MBE in 2009 for services to Britain's Gas Industry, and is a Fellow of the Institute of Directors. Jon is a Non-Executive Director of Pennon Group and chairs its Health and Safety Committee.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY RADIUS SYSTEMS LTD

WINNER



CERIANNE TALBOT

Operations Manager at Morrison Energy Services

Cerianne is the Operations Manager at Morrison Energy Services, running the multiple occupancy buildings (MOBs) process in London. Her role is to coordinate the delivery of refurbishment to gas risers in MOBs across the city.

In 2022-23, Cerianne assumed overall responsibility for the management of the MOBs process as part of Morrison Energy Services' Construction Management Organisation (CMO) contract. Now in charge of the operation, she has implemented robust processes and controls, expanding the operation and resulting in a tripling of the team's output.

Cerianne's leadership and empathic approach, combined with her drive towards operational excellence and team development secured the award for her, said the judges. Her team's development has seen outstanding delivery performance of operations in the most exacting and challenging of circumstances while still meeting the needs of diverse communities, including capital's most vulnerable customers.

RUNNERS UP

JAMES HOOKER

Technical Development and Re-life Manager at National Grid Grain LNG

James leads the 'Re-life' project at Grain LNG – currently repurposing and upgrading ageing but critical assets. Starting as a Technical Apprentice, James has gained extensive engineering expertise in a wide range of roles, leading to being hand-picked to lead this challenging workstream.

James has successfully developed a diverse, high performing team with the specialist skills needed for success. An excellent communicator, he's able to set a 'bigger picture' context with a particular focus on net zero. He supports the needs of the business by setting strategically-aligned objectives, helping to deliver continuous improvement by driving efficiencies and best practice.

A natural collaborator, James' excellent stakeholder management in delivering this complex project has minimised disruption to vital operations. His people management skills encourage individuals to reach their full potential, which encourages personal ownership of development. And he promotes participation in events to keep pace with a fast-moving industry and grow his team's expertise.

LUCY MASON

Managing Director, Energy Networks at Skewb Ltd

Lucy Mason has worked in the utility industry for 33 years. A manager who started her career on a Youth Training Scheme, Lucy has enhanced the industry through her dedication and contribution via a wide variety of roles.

As a Streetworks Inspector, Lucy contributed to the development of the Traffic Management Act and as an Operational Manager in the water industry, she led a water replacement programme worth £20 million. She later led an innovation programme at Wales & West Utilities, saving customers £16 million and contributing towards the network's goals for reaching net zero emissions and improving safety.

Using her collaborative style to work at an industry level with the GDNs and the supply chain, Lucy makes sure that innovation opportunities and learning are shared by all so that every customer can benefit.

More recently, Lucy has taken the position of Managing Director for Energy Networks at Skewb, leading her team to make a difference in the customer and Streetworks performance arena.

ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY FUSION UTILITIES

WINNER



STEVE CRITCHLOW

Principal Gas Engineer/Incident Investigator at the Health & Safety Executive

Steve is an engineer in every sense of the word. The work he undertakes is not 'glitzy' or glamorous, but comes with a cost - personally and mentally. From bereaved families, scenes of horror, court cases and more, investigators like Steve help us to learn and improve and are why our industry has a deservedly proud safety history.

The judges said: "Steve is a well-known and respected individual across the gas industry for his role in accident investigation and safety regulation.

"This is deeply challenging and important work and Steve is at the forefront of his profession. In addition to having such a challenging day job, he continues to make significant contributions to the industry through his work with IGEM as Chair the EngTech Working Group and a member of Council."

RUNNERS UP

CRYSTAL WING-YEE CHAN

Professional Engineer, Drainage Services Department,
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Crystal is extremely passionate and committed, devoting her time to voluntary services at various professional institutions with an aspiration to raise the profile of engineers - especially female engineers.

She is encouraging young people into the industry by actively promoting STEM education, fostering innovation technology and exchanging her knowledge with others.

In addition, Crystal has invented a range innovative, smart infrared cameras for automatic gas leakage detection alongside a gas accident prevention system and laser methane detector, thus driving efficiencies and demonstrating best practice in her work.

ALEX JURGENS

Terminal Project Engineer at National Grid Grain LNG

Alex is Project Engineer on Grain LNG's CAP 25 Project. His natural ability and dedicated work ethic have taken him from apprentice to graduate, while delivering on some demanding roles.

Hand-picked for the role, Alex is committed to gas sector safety, making rigorous standards central to measuring success. A resourceful engineer, his work on site vaporiser tube bundles has successfully helped create a safe, long-term solution to managing risk on difficult-to-inspect assets.

SIMON THURLOW

Project Manager, SGN

Simon leads SGN's high-profile mains diversion and governor relocation project next to the iconic Oval Cricket Ground.

On this pioneering project, he successfully trialled installing 800mm PE pipe for the first time on SGN's network, and developed a world-first spherical tee technique to connect the new pipe from above instead of using the traditional horizontal drilling technique.

The spherical tee minimised the size of the excavation for this connection by 240m³, so by embracing new technology to overcome common engineering challenges, Simon was able to significantly reduce SGN's environmental impact.

HYPERION

Kitemarked and GIS approved

The chosen pipe and valve suppliers for the Fife 100 project

Learn more about Radius' 'Hydrogen Now' solutions for 100% hydrogen projects, for pipe networks transporting 100% hydrogen from the onset.



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YOUNG PERSON'S ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

SPONSORED BY NATIONAL GAS METERING

WINNER



CRYSTAL WING-YEE CHAN

Professional Engineer, Drainage Services Department,
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Crystal is extremely passionate, committed and devotes her time to voluntary services at various professional institutions with an aspiration to uplift the image of engineers, especially women.

She enables the continuous professional development of engineers by organising conferences, seminars, technical visits and much more where they can exchange knowledge and brush up on their skills.

The judges said: "Crystal has shown an amazing work rate in a diversity of subjects. She has demonstrated the ability to absorb and implement detailed work programs and with her engaging personality has created a positive work environment. At the same time, she has been a strong ambassador for STEM subjects in schools."

RUNNERS UP

AFSARA CHOWDHURY

Terminal Project Engineer at National Grid Grain LNG

Afsara, Project Engineer at Grain LNG's CAP25 Project, is an exceptional young engineer, already contributing positively by taking personal ownership of performance. A passionate advocate of continuous improvement, she consistently exceeds expectations with innovative solutions for efficiency and value.

With a 'can-do' attitude and a ferocious appetite for challenges, Afsara is ambitious for herself, the team and the business. She instinctively seeks better ways of working and resourcefully adopts new technologies, helping to promote sustainability by repurposing assets.

DANIEL MEE

Principal Integrity Engineer at Cadent

Daniel contributes extensively across Cadent, IGEM and the wider industry, developing engineers within Cadent and supporting IGEM on technical panels and the membership committee.

He approaches challenges with an unending drive for continuous improvement and a hunger for professional development and growth. Within Cadent, Daniel leads on a vast array of subject areas, from end-to-end integrity management of asset classes (crossings and valves), to policy development, to resolving complex plant protection queries and power generation plant connections.

LUCY NEMBAWARE

Scheduling Assistant at Morrison Energy Services

Lucy has almost singlehandedly delivered the Centres for Warmth programme to Morrison Energy Services' London CMO contract's area of operation.

Lucy has worked tirelessly on her own professional and personal development while also helping to change lives and make a difference to hundreds of customers in fuel poverty.

Her enthusiastic and determined contribution has been the catalyst for a range of charitable organisations and social enterprises to come together to make the Centres for Warmth an effective and positive force for good in the capital.

LEADERSHIP AWARD

SPONSORED BY WALES & WEST UTILITIES

WINNER



ADRIAN MCCONNELL

Chief Executive, CO Research Trust

Adrian McConnell has led the CO Research Trust (CORT) for 10 years, evolving from a charity hosted by other organisations to an independent, CO-focused, grant-giving research charity.

During his leadership, CORT has made £4 million of grant awards for research focusing on carbon monoxide, aimed at better understanding its prevalence, diagnosis, treatment, and detection. Adrian has written and implemented an ambitious research strategy to generate better evidence to influence policymakers, inform healthcare professionals and improve industry processes.

The judges said: "Amongst a very strong field of candidates, Adrian has worked tirelessly for many years, helping to tackle one of the key safety risks in our industry. He has driven research, engagement and publicity campaigns to raise awareness of these risks. For his tireless work in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the effects of carbon monoxide, he has been chosen as the recipient of the Leadership Award."

RUNNERS UP

IAN PALMER-SMITH

Supplier and Heating Service Director, Domestic & General

Ian joined D&G at the start of the company's partnerships with Scottish Power and EDF; both partners have been impressed by the business performance, safety records and customer satisfaction displayed under Ian's leadership.

Overnight, Domestic & General went from 2K to 15K repairs per month and continues to maintain high standards with these volumes.

Under Ian's leadership, Domestic & General has become the second-largest warranty provider for gas appliances in the UK. Ian has also managed a consistent reduction in contractor safety risks by introducing an industry-leading auditing programme.

JEN MOTEN

Director of North West, Cadent

Jen has transformed Cadent's North West network and led the way in changing the culture of her team. Her absolute focus on understanding and serving Cadent's customers has seen the network rise from the bottom half of the league tables to competing for the top spot in all metrics.

Bringing people on the journey has been the key to Jen's success; coaching, mentoring and developing a leadership development programme which now forms part of Cadent's learning academy. Jen was a hands-on executive sponsor of the 'Women in Cadent' group, a new community-led project to provide everyone with equal opportunities to succeed in Cadent and within the gas industry.

DEAN ROBERTS

Senior Compliance Services - Head of Gas and Renewables at Sovereign Housing

Dean is responsible for around 40,000 properties, accountable for gas, solid fuel, oil and renewables, S&R, installations and commercial operations. Responsible for 125 staff striving for 100 per cent compliance, Dean leads his team by example.

Dean has also implemented training and presented to Sovereign's managers and engineers on the subject of gas pipework risk assessments in multiple occupancy buildings (including DSEAR) in relation to IGEM/G/5 Edition 3, IGEM/UP/2 and BS6891 2015.



Work with one of the largest gas meter equipment managers and gas infrastructure partners.

Connections

Installations

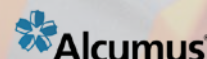
Hydrogen

Maintenance

Asset management

all with award winning culture and customer service.

nationalgas.com/gas-transmission/metering



We are Wales & West Utilities

Every day our skilled and dedicated colleagues do their very best to keep our 7.5 million customers safe and warm, with a gas supply they can rely on and a level of service they can trust.



We help communities, businesses and the economy thrive by delivering reliable, affordable and sustainable energy. We are committed to supporting those most vulnerable in society with practical help and guidance on the energy issues that impact individuals, families and our communities.

We work with trusted partners to make sure homes are safe, warm and efficient, investing £2 million a week across our

network to make sure the communities we serve receive a safe and reliable gas supply for generations to come.

It is a vital service and one we are extremely proud to deliver.

Gas Industry Awards 2023

Proud sponsors of the Leadership Award

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SAFETY AWARD

SPONSORED BY TOWN GAS

WINNER



CHANGING SAFETY CULTURE EAST MIDLAND NETWORK BY CADENT

By creating a series of safety films, Cadent was able to create meaningful connections with its employees, using roleplay to help them to see and feel the impact their negligence can have on others.

Thanks to this project, Cadent saw a marked improvement in the safety culture of the organisation, with a step-change in accident reduction. Meanwhile, near-miss reporting increased, leading to innovation and process reviews. This change in behaviours demonstrated that engineers had started to take safety more seriously. Overall, the incidents of near-misses and accidents reduced significantly.

The judges said: "Managing safety culture within an organisation is one of the most difficult tasks to perform and measure. With this project, Cadent was able to create an emotional connection with its employees, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of the importance of safety measures."

RUNNERS UP

KANE INTERNATIONAL

Kane is celebrating 60 years of designing and manufacturing test equipment in the UK. The company's analysers keep homes safe from CO quickly, simply and easily, removing doubt and preventing near-misses.

The KANE458s indoor air quality and flue gas analyser simultaneously tests four rooms for ambient CO & CO₂, dramatically reducing time, cost and personal risk, providing a straightforward way to perform life saving tests in homes.

The analyser wirelessly connects four room CO monitors for simultaneous CMDDA1 and GL8 tests, alongside appliance sweep tests, boiler commissioning and combustion performance checks, with data transferable to KANE LIVE, the free app.

MORRISON ENERGY SERVICES WITH THE JIM IRVING SAFETY INITIATIVES CALENDAR: "EMBEDDING A NEW SAFETY CULTURE"

At Morrison Energy Services, Jim Irving's Safety Initiative Calendar combines the best of all practices to create a bespoke programme of information which has disrupted and significantly re-energised the company's safety culture.

The principle behind the calendar is to engage in topical safety themes the month before they are statistically likely to cause a measurable issue. In this way, Morrison's pre-emptive strategy is to maximise cultural awareness of safety topics ahead of any potential incidents.

The strategy is highly inclusive, ensuring nobody gets left behind. From visual learning through to impressive and arresting posters at site offices and carefully curated training and education programmes, Jim's safety team is making use of annual trend data to create a bespoke calendar of activities, discussion and supervisory focus.

This ensures the company's cultural focus shifts throughout the year to always stay one step ahead of the wide array of operational risk factors.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

SPONSORED BY BRITISH GAS

WINNER



NEVER WALKING AWAY

SGN

When attending emergencies, SGN's engineers visit some of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Despite making the situation safe, their engineers were uncomfortable walking away from customers in need. They wanted a way to provide extra help. In response, SGN built a network of support services for engineers to refer vulnerable customers for help.

Their Careline service includes 14 services, such as funding boiler repairs for customers in financial hardship, plus access to partners for energy efficiency and wellbeing support. Making it as easy as possible to offer help, SGN developed a bespoke customer toolkit with embedded referral app. The toolkit contains video guides to all their services and training from partners on topics including mental health and disability.

The judges said: "With outstanding customer service for the most vulnerable customers, SGN delivers a network of support services for their engineers, with a bespoke customer toolkit deployed to provide exceptional care for the most vulnerable throughout the network achieving unprecedented levels of support."

RUNNERS UP

STANNINGTON INCIDENT RESPONSE

Cadent

On 3 December 2022, a mains water pipe burst and flooded a gas main serving 11,000 customers in Stannington, Sheffield. Consequently 3,000 homes lost their gas supply.

Within hours, Cadent mobilised over 100 employees worked with British Red Cross, Northern Powergrid and the local authority to ensure that vulnerable customers were targeted as priority. Teams remained on site for 3 weeks, removing over 1m litres of water from the gas network. Cadent repaired/replaced over 3,000 gas appliances and spent over 4 months working closely with the community to ensure that customers were warm and eased of financial difficulties.

IMPROVING THE CUSTOMER CONNECTION JOURNEY

Skewb Ltd

Skewb was asked to lead the transformation to improve customer satisfaction not only just in complaint handling but crucially from a customer's view, the level of emotional connection and the level of trust they may have with Cadent's connections process.

All aspects of customer experience were tackled to make improvements in efficiency in transactional experiences, problem-solving, innovation and genuinely focusing on customers personalities.

SOVEREIGN HOUSING

Sovereign Housing

In November 2021, Sovereign Housing launched a triage project where they used customer videos to diagnose problems and fix over the phone. This improved the way they interacted with their customers, diagnosing faults and taking the customer through simple repairs i.e. ensuring credit on meters, bleeding radiators, refilling systems and resetting boilers.

Over 12 months later, since introducing a digital led service offering customers video triaging and not sending out an engineer managed to remotely fix over 480 boilers. Resulting in the equivalent of £80,000 cost avoidance and also reducing Sovereign's carbon footprint, avoiding the emission of around 2 million grams of CO2 into the atmosphere, working towards a greener future.

Congratulations to the winners

From everyone at British Gas

We're on a journey to change
energy for the better.

Whether it's helping make
energy prices more predictable
by increasing the UK's gas
storage by 50% or giving
£50m in energy debt
support to help those
who need it most.



TOWNGAS
Sustainability Focused

We conduct our business with sustainability in mind – for a greener future, for the generations to come.

As Hong Kong's oldest energy utility, our pioneering spirit has always been underpinned by an emphasis on public good. We have not only taken the initiative to conserve energy and reduce emissions through utilising landfill gas and other renewable clean energy sources, but also upheld our commitment to corporate social responsibility, as evident in our active volunteer team engaging the community for over two decades.

Throughout our growth, we have strived for best-in-class environment, social and governance performance to make our operations even more resilient. We shall continue to invest in projects contributing towards decarbonisation as we join the rest of the world in tackling climate change, while adding value to safeguard the interests of our stakeholders for positive impact.



INNOVATION AWARD

SPONSORED BY SGN

WINNER



HYDEPLOY, WINLATON

Northern Gas Networks in collaboration with Cadent, Keele University, Health & Safety Executive, ITM Power and Progressive Energy

HyDeploy Winlaton saw up to 20 per cent hydrogen blended with natural gas and supplied to 668 houses, a school and a church in Winlaton, near Gateshead, between August 2021 and June 2022. This was the first time hydrogen had been blended on a public gas network, comprising a variety of materials.

An extensive safety case was presented to satisfy the HSE. Extensive materials science research was conducted, exploring fundamental fracture mechanics to demonstrate that metallic pipes do not suffer from embrittlement or increased leakage.

The judges commented: "This year's winner of the Innovation Award, Northern Gas Networks, has addressed one of the key issues in reducing carbon emissions. Following extensive customer engagement, the network has demonstrated the possibility of blending hydrogen into the natural gas network, paving the way for policy decisions in this area."

RUNNERS UP

AUSMOS GPR MAPPING AND MARK-OUT ROBOT

ULC Technologies in collaboration with SGN and Transport for London (TfL)

ULC Technologies, SGN and Transport for London (TfL) have developed the next generation of underground location and detection technology. The Automated Utility Service Mark-Out System (AUSMOS) is a semi-autonomous robotic platform which detects and marks-out below-ground infrastructure, utilising a sensor suite comprised of GPR and electromagnetic sensors.

This platform automates underground mapping to capture denser GPR data. Meanwhile, post-processing techniques enable same-day data collection, processing and road mark-out to improve the delivery time of projects, with a positive effect on roadworks.

FBOS (FOAMBAG OPERATION ON STUBS)

A partnership between Steve Vick International and Cadent

The FBOS (Foambag Operation on Stubs) innovation was a partnership between Cadent and Steve Vick International (SVI), funded via Ofgem's Network Innovation Allowance.

The project aimed to develop a technique which allows for total abandonment of 75mm into 4in and up to 125mm into 6in T1 pipes.

After successful field trials, the FBOS technique was approved by Cadent for use across its mains replacement portfolio. FBOS has since been made available for use by other gas distribution networks (GDNs) with positive results.

HYNTS ENERGY SYSTEM TRANSITION PROGRAMME

National Gas Transmission PLC, in collaboration with National Grid Electricity Transmission, National Grid ESO

National Gas has developed an extensive innovation programme (HyNTS) focused on supporting the evidence for the transition of the UK's gas transmission network to become a transporter of hydrogen and deliver medium and long-term climate goals.

A key element of delivering hydrogen for power, industry, transport and heat is the development of a whole systems approach to delivering low carbon energy through collaborative projects.

The HyNTS innovation portfolio currently consists of 97 projects funded through a variety of mechanisms with over 70 partners.

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

WINNER



SKEWB OPUS

Skewb Ltd

The Skewb Opus suite is the leading set of complete digital tools for streetworks and integrated asset management. Its flexible diagnostics and outcomes-driven platform is deployed alongside Skewb's expert streetworks consultants to deliver efficiency and cost savings across streetworks operations.

The built-in public impact assessment capabilities identify the highest-risk works to allow the prioritisation of safety inspections. And the risk impact triangles highlight the road types suitable for self-reinstatement and backfill material reuse, helping street teams to achieve a lower impact on the environment.

The judges noted: "Skewb's product aided the improvement and delivery of the networks programme, reducing annual avoidable costs and improving right-first-time execution. It has also helped to optimise operations and management by visually providing information to aid decision-making, and by identifying the highest-risk works to allow the prioritisation of safety inspections."

RUNNERS UP

STATS BISEP LINE STOP: FIRST USE IN UK GAS TRANSMISSION

STATS Group

The STATS BISEP line stopping technology is being used for the first time in the UK gas transmission network, providing leak-tight, temporary double block and bleed isolation.

The BISEP improves efficiency by saving time and reducing cost as fewer pipe fittings, welds, inspections, excavations and hot taps are required. In addition, worksite safety is greatly increased for personnel and the general public in built-up areas.

Using the BISEP results in less disruptive maintenance and repair activities, as it can be deployed on sloped pipes (as for Mutual Energy) and in tight spaces. It enables otherwise impossible projects to be completed and reduces disruption compared to traditional line stopping technology. As the BISEP provides a leak-tight isolation, there is no managed leak/vent as with traditional technology, therefore less methane is discharged to the atmosphere.

BONDED SERVICE FITTING ON A CURED-IN-PLACE PIPE (CIPP) LINED LIVE GAS MAIN FOR REDUCED DISRUPTION, COST AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Water Research Centre Ltd

The Water Research Centre's bonded service fitting enables the use of CIPP liners on gas networks where connections or access into the pipe is required. This world-first solution is non-metallic, bonded without mechanical attachment and designed to install quickly for reduced disruption, cost and environmental impact.

The fitting has been proven to meet industry performance requirements and successfully installed in a live UK gas network. It is manufactured in the UK and can be transported to site in a van, reducing emissions.

It enables CIPP liners to be used within the gas network where connections are required with minimal excavation and minimal customer disruption. The developed solution is truly innovative, opening up CIPP liner use in the gas industry, with Cadent and SGN looking to roll out this technology within their networks.

PROJECT OF THE YEAR WINNER



FUTUREGRID

National Gas Transmission PLC in partnership with DNV, Health & Safety Executive, Fluxys, Durham University and The University of Edinburgh

FutureGrid is a world-leading programme demonstrating hydrogen can be transported in the existing gas transmission network. The National Transmission System (NTS) delivers natural gas reliably and safely. Converting the network to carry hydrogen would be a lower cost, less disruptive option to network replacement.

The FutureGrid facility is the first of its kind. Constructed from decommissioned assets, it is truly representative of the NTS, and designed to test assets at numerous hydrogen concentrations and flow rates. FutureGrid delivers a collaborative and innovative testing platform which will ultimately accelerate both innovation and the energy transition.

The judges said: "This project is at the forefront of the energy transition, and it is addressing the issues the gas industry will need to solve if it is to achieve net zero. The depth of detail the project is covering is immense and is already delivering results."

RUNNERS UP

DEEPHAMS GAS TO GRID PLANT

SGN in partnership with Thames Water

SGN Commercial Services partnered with Thames Water on an eight-year framework to design, construct, operate and maintain biomethane gas to grid plants at its wastewater treatment facilities. The first project in the framework was at Deephams Wastewater Treatment Plant, feeding biomethane into the Cadent network.

This collaborative project converts a constant supply of waste sewage into a heat source for approximately 3,500 homes. The Deephams site is currently injecting 250,000m³ biomethane a month into the Cadent gas grid.

HYDEPLOY, WINLATON

Northern Gas Networks in collaboration with Cadent, Keele University, Health & Safety Executive, ITM Power and Progressive Energy

The Winlaton trial has supplied vital evidence to support the safety of blending hydrogen into the gas network across the UK. This project has demonstrated that hydrogen can be used safely in the public gas network and the evidence from these trials will be used to help the UK government form policies about the role of hydrogen in blending for the future of gas in our networks.

Other exciting hydrogen projects are underway in the area, including the UK's first Hydrogen Home supplied entirely with 100 per cent hydrogen.

KIWA HYDROGEN PRODUCTION PLANT

Kiwa

This project was led by Georgina Orr and designed by Dr Leighton Holyfield, who were jointly nominated in recognition of their significant individual contributions and for their joint ability to solve problems.

Their close collaboration as a project team developed practical solutions that can be considered the foundations of industry best practice in: gas odourisation design and operation procedures for low pressure hydrogen networks, design requirements of a hydrogen detection device, procedures for the GDNO's FCO emergency response teams to respond to a report of a hydrogen gas leak, design safety considerations, installation and commissioning guidance and operating and maintenance procedures for hydrogen networks in commercial buildings.

COMPANY OF THE YEAR WINNER



UNITED LIVING INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

United Living provides engineering design, build and maintenance services to all the UK's gas networks, social housing providers and property developers. They're best known in the gas industry for safely, reliably and efficiently delivering a broad portfolio of major capital schemes.

These include multi-year asset health and integrated security system frameworks on gas terminals, above ground installations and gas transmission and distribution pipeline schemes, eg., new builds, diversions and crossings. United Living is working on first of a kind UK projects like Cadent's Optinet and HyNet North West, supporting the UK's energy transition.

The judges said: "It was a unanimous decision in selecting this year's winner of Company of the Year. Not only do they deliver outstanding, complex projects on a regular basis, the company has also demonstrated great entrepreneurship for delivery growth, while demonstrating best in class safety performance and a real investment in its people."

RUNNERS UP

LIFE AT NATIONAL GAS METERING

National Gas Metering's job is to help keep households warm and to underpin the quality of life within the communities they serve. For businesses, they fuel growth and innovation, and are looking to the future by developing the hydrogen transmission system of tomorrow.

National Gas Metering maintains and manages over seven million domestic, industrial and commercial combined gas assets across the UK, ensuring they remain safe, reliable and efficient for homes and businesses. This includes supporting new connections and maintaining existing installations.

In 2021, National Grid announced the sale of its gas metering and transmission businesses, and National Gas Metering (NGM) became its own entity in January 2023. Despite uncertainty following this announcement, the commitment to delivering excellence hasn't wavered. Highlights include its flexible employee-centric workplace, dedicated change specialists to ensure continuous improvement, plus support for hydrogen projects and the future of a net zero gas industry while maintaining significant profitability.

SKEWB

Skewb collaborates across utilities to enhance network performance and customer experience. Skewb delivers over 40 outcome-focused services and products producing breakthrough performance results and excellence, upskilling the future workforce, and developing clean energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation.

Founded in 2017 by husband and wife team Shashi and Indu Seshadri, Skewb has flourished in its first five years of business, growing from a single client to over 10. Concentrating on strengthening business resilience and focused growth, Skewb now has 130 Skewbers and enjoys over £13.5 million turnover.

Skewb's passion and track record of delivering business outperformance results at pace for all customers is exemplary. Breaking down complex problems into simpler solutions and roadmaps while collaborating with customers and partners, Skewb delivers outstanding improvements in CSAT and efficiency.

Innovation delivered through Skewb Climate and Skewb Green demonstrates the company's contribution to society via awareness and engagement on climate, environment, energy and water resources and consumer safety.

The company aims to create the largest UK education and training digital platform in the utility sector. Skewb has invested around £1 million in the development of its teams, with inclusion, diversity, equality and anti-racism at the heart of all the company does.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

WINNER



ANDREW RAMAGE

DNV

Andrew has had a long and varied career and last October celebrated 45 years within the gas industry, building extensive experience in gas transmission and the design, operation, maintenance and integrity management of UK pipelines.

After graduating from Heriot Watt University in 1977, he joined the industry with British Gas holding a number of positions within the business until the early 2000s. A Chartered Engineer with IMechE and IGEM, Andrew has been an active member of IGEM throughout his career, contributing to technical panels dedicated to transmission and distribution.

Now, Andrew provides consultancy services for the integrity management and up-rating of gas transmission pipelines including the associated installations and the repurposing of pipelines to hydrogen.

Andrew couldn't make the awards ceremony on the day, so Andrew Cummings (pictured) collected the award on his behalf.



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