

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Impact Awards finalists announced

The men and women driving some of the most entrepreneurial businesses of tomorrow have beaten off stiff competition to be shortlisted for The Impact Awards, organised by PraxisUnico. Thirteen teams – and four individuals have been shortlisted from 80 entries across all award categories. All the shortlisted entrants have made outstanding contributions to society and the economy through innovation.

These fledging companies range from a business that manufactures quantum dot technology which promises to create more energy-efficient LCD televisions (amongst many other possible applications), to a novel technology that could safely and effectively prevent infections associated with the use of medical devices.

Chair of PraxisUnico, Professor David Secher said, “The Impact Awards are now in their second year and again we have been delighted with the entries which demonstrate the breadth and depth of knowledge transfer. These awards reveal the diversity of projects that knowledge transfer and technology transfer professionals contribute. These shortlisted entries are a testament to the achievements of the profession. “

The Judging Panel was once again led by Dr David Owen, who added, “The panel has been exposed to some great innovations that in many cases have clear market potential. Other entries have less market potential, but have important societal or economic drivers. The projects we have seen are the foundations of our knowledge economy.”

Winners of The Impact Awards will be announced by Maggie Philbin at The Impact Awards ceremony, held at the PraxisUnico Conference Gala Dinner, on 16 June in Nottingham at the East Midlands Conference Centre.

For more information on The Impact Awards visit www.impactawards.org.uk, or email info@impactawards.org.uk, or call 01223 422085.

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The shortlist

Business Impact Achieved Award, sponsored by BDO LLP, shortlisted entries are:

- **Manufacturer of quantum dots in commercial quantities** from The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP) for Nanoco Technologies
- **Seating and Positioning for Children with Disabilities** from University of Ulster and James Leckey Design Ltd
- **ApaTech (orthobiologics company)** from Queen Mary Innovation Ltd, Queen Mary, University of London
- **ChIEFS** from Food Processing Faraday

Business Impact Aspiring Award, shortlisted entries are:

- **Circassia** from Imperial Innovations/Imperial College London
- **Nexeon** from Imperial Innovations/Imperial College London
- **Novel anti-infective coatings** from The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP) for Ai2 Ltd

Environmental Impact Award, shortlisted entries are:

- **Bumblebee Conservation** from Bumblebee Conservation Trust/University of Stirling
- **Welsh Institute of Sustainable Environments – WISE Network** from Bangor University, Swansea University, Aberystwyth University

Public Policy and Service Impact Award, shortlisted entries are:

- **IDEAS@Daresbury** from Lancaster University Management School
- **EvoFIT** from University of Central Lancashire
- **Counterweight** from Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen

Newcomer of the Year award:

- **Dr Vera Hazelwood** from Industrial Mathematics Knowledge Transfer Network
- **Ian Proctor** from The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP)
- **Tessa Padden** from the Centre for Translation & Interpreting Studies in Scotland, Heriot-Watt University
- **Dr George Rice** from The University of Nottingham

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For further information:

PraxisUnico

Lee Willmott

Communications Officer

PraxisUnico

Tel: +44 (0)1223 422085

lee.willmott@praxisunico.org.uk

Additional information

About PraxisUnico

PraxisUnico is a not-for-profit educational organisation set up to support innovation and commercialisation of public sector and charity research for social and economic impact. PraxisUnico encourages innovation and acts as a voice for the research commercialisation profession, facilitating the interaction between the public sector research base, business and government. PraxisUnico provides a forum for best practice exchange, underpinned by first-class training and development programmes.

The Judging Panel

Judging panel members:

- Dr David Owen OBE (Chair)
- Dr Allyson Reed, Director of Strategy and Communication, Technology Strategy Board
- Emeritus Professor Trevor Page, FEng., Senior Researcher, School of Chemical Engineering & Advanced Materials, Newcastle University (formerly Cookson Group Chair of Materials Engineering & Pro-Vice-Chancellor – Research)
- Jackie Wilbraham, Director of R&D Science Policy
- Professor John Goddard OBE, PhD, AcSS, Emeritus Professor of Regional Development Studies, Centre for Urban & Regional Development Studies (CURDS), Newcastle University and formerly Deputy Vice Chancellor at Newcastle University

Attending the event

Members of the press who are interested in attending the awards presentation should contact Lee Willmott, Communications Officer on 01223 422085 or email lee.willmott@unico.org.uk.

The Impact Award sponsors

- Business Impact Achieved Award – BDO LLP, is an award winning accountancy firm providing a full range of advisory and accounting services to businesses, academic institutions, governments and forward thinking entrepreneurs. BDO LLP is recognised as leading service providers to businesses that have spun-out from their academic roots.