



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Finalists announced in The Impact Awards**

Thirteen UK teams – and one Portuguese team have beaten off stiff competition from 73 other entries to be shortlisted for The Impact Awards, organised by Unico. All the teams have made outstanding impact through innovation.

The three award categories: Business Impact, Environmental Impact and Public Policy and Service Impact recognise and celebrate the process of transferring knowledge and expertise from the research base of higher education and the public sector for the wider benefit of society and the economy.

Entries, invited from all research sectors, had to demonstrate that the project had achieved, or had the potential to achieve, impact and that knowledge transfer had been pivotal in the process.

Chair of Unico, Professor David Secher said, "Unico is delighted to be associated with these exciting new awards. The range of entries evidences the depth and breadth of knowledge transfer that is taking place and show how that knowledge transfer is driving innovation. The Impact Awards will raise the profile of the projects and the teams."

Judging Panel Chair, Dr David Owen, added, "It's exciting to be invited to chair the judging panel of The Impact Awards in its inaugural year. It was a tough challenge to decide which entries should be shortlisted and even harder to pick the winners. Without the combined skill and expertise of the independent judging panel; this task would have been much more difficult."

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Winners of The Impact Awards will be announced at The Impact Awards ceremony, held at the Unico Conference Gala Dinner, Brighton Racecourse, on Thursday evening, 11 June 2009.

For more information on The Impact Awards visit [www.impactawards.org.uk](http://www.impactawards.org.uk), or email [info@impactawards.org.uk](mailto:info@impactawards.org.uk), or call 01223 422085.

### The shortlist

Business Impact Award, sponsored by BDO Stoy Hayward, shortlisted entries are:

- **New Strategies for Radio and Music Organisations** from Birmingham City University
- **Transitive** from The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP)
- **Karus Therapeutics – Cancer therapies using novel Histone Deactylase inhibitors from academia to SME** from University of Southampton
- **A 'smart stethoscope' for monitoring treatment of kidney stone patients** from University of Southampton
- **Promethean Particles Ltd – formulating solutions with nanomaterials** from The University of Nottingham

Environmental Impact Award, sponsored by Praxis:

- **The Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network (REKTN)/National Industrial Symbiosis Programme Collaboration** from The University of Birmingham, Ctech Innovation Ltd and International Synergies Ltd
- **Bike Off 2 - Catalysing anti theft bike, bike parking and information design for the 21st century** from Design Against Crime Research Centre (DACRC)
- **RUMM** from University of Glamorgan
- **Smartwatt – Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration** from INESC Porto (Institute for Systems and Computer Engineering of Porto)
- **The microwave exfoliation of vermiculite** from The University of Nottingham

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Public Policy and Service Impact Award, sponsored by Research Councils UK, are:

- **Dare to be Digital** from University of Abertay Dundee
- **The Learning Needs Profiler©** from Sancton Wood School/Anglia Ruskin University
- **IMPACT – the International Health Impact Assessment Consortium, and IMPACT+** from The University of Liverpool
- **Apnee Sehat “Our Health”** from The University of Warwick

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**For further information:**

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Unico**

Unico is the UK's leading representative body of professionals realising the potential of university and public sector research through commercialisation.

Unico members maximise the impact of UK research to benefit society and strengthen the economy by identifying markets for research discoveries; protecting intellectual property; licensing new research; creating quality 'spinout' companies; and providing businesses with the world-class expertise and facilities to solve growth-inhibiting challenges.

### **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

### **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](mailto:lee.willmott@unico.org.uk).

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## The Impact Award sponsors

- Business Impact Award – BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, UK member firm of BDO International, the world's fifth largest accountancy network
- Public Policy and Service Impact Award – Research Councils UK, the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils
- Environmental Impact Award – Praxis Courses Ltd, providers of inspirational training courses for knowledge transfer and commercialisation professionals

## Entry summaries

Business Impact Award, sponsored by BDO Stoy Hayward, shortlisted entries are:

- New Strategies for Radio and Music Organisations from Birmingham City University  
Radio and music media consumption has been transformed by new online media, and an understanding of how these interactive forms create cultural communities is essential to the way in which commercial and voluntary sector organisations need to respond to change. The University works with partners to identify the particular challenges they face in dealing with the online environment. It then sets out, through a mixture of strategic planning, prototype design, and industry knowledge and experience, to help them respond to the challenges.
- Transitive from The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP)  
Transitive has developed unique "cross-platform virtualisation" software that allows any software application to run on any processor and operating system, breaking these hardware/software dependency issues for the first time. Transitive's software, called QuickTransit®, is now the most widely used virtualisation solution in the world, and has been adopted by Sun Microsystems, IBM, Intel, Hewlett Packard, Fujitsu Siemens, and many others, while every Apple Macintosh sold since January 2006 includes a copy.

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- Karus Therapeutics – Cancer therapies using novel Histone Deacetylase inhibitors from academia to SME from University of Southampton  
Karus Therapeutics, an emerging pharmaceutical company which is developing proprietary “best-in-class” drugs. Karus’s initial focus is a new family of drugs that inhibit histone deacetylases (HDACs), which have the potential to transform a number of major, chronic diseases including cancer, cardiovascular, psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- A ‘smart stethoscope’ for monitoring treatment of kidney stone patients from University of Southampton  
An ambitious partnership between University, NHS, and SME to develop an inexpensive non-invasive device (a ‘smart stethoscope’) for assessing, in real time and in theatre, how well shock wave lithotripsy (SWL) treatments were proceeding (SWL is the most popular method for fragmenting kidney stones).
- Promethean Particles Ltd – formulating solutions with nanomaterials from The University of Nottingham  
The development of a continuous flow nozzle reactor that solves mixing and blockage problems inherent in existing hydrothermal synthesis reactors.

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#### Environmental Impact Award, sponsored by Praxis:

- The Resource Efficiency Knowledge Transfer Network (REKTN)/National Industrial Symbiosis Programme Collaboration from The University of Birmingham, Ctech Innovation Ltd and International Synergies Ltd  
The project's principle aims have been to develop innovation and transfer knowledge from academic and commercial innovation providers to help UK companies make better use of materials and energy which includes the use of industrial wastes as a source of chemicals, fuels and other valuable materials.
- Bike Off 2 - Catalysing anti theft bike, bike parking and information design for the 21st century from Design Against Crime Research Centre (DACRC)  
Bikeoff is an initiative of the Design Against Crime Research Centre. It is concerned with reducing bicycle theft through practice led design research aimed at catalysing, and in some cases creating, cycling products, environments and services that prioritise the accommodation of users (cyclists) but also builds in resistance to abuse/rs (vandals and thieves).
- RUMM from University of Glamorgan  
RUMM helps companies with utility bills over £100,000 per year reduce their energy consumption and improve profitability. RUMM applies energy management technology to achieve maximum savings.
- Smartwatt – Energy Efficiency and Microgeneration from INESC Porto (Institute for Systems and Computer Engineering of Porto)  
Smartwatt is a young company which represents a change in the old approach of energy companies to the market, by developing technical and financial energy saving solutions to its customers.

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- The microwave exfoliation of vermiculite from The University of Nottingham  
Linking microwave expertise, market knowledge and funding sources together to develop a new low-energy processing technology resulting in wider unexpected environmental benefits, such as reduced dust and hot air production further enabling energy reduction as well as health and safety improvement through removal of large dust control equipment.

Public Policy and Service Impact Award, sponsored by Research Councils UK, are:

- Dare to be Digital from University of Abertay Dundee  
Dare to be Digital is a part of a wider strategy for knowledge transfer associated with the intellectual capacity of students and graduates that was implemented in 1998. The Dare to be Digital project began life in 1999 as an internal competition to bring together arts and science students to work in interdisciplinary teams to create digital interactive prototypes, with industry support and mentoring, working for 10 weeks in a development “hothouse”. The finished prototype video games are rolled out to be played by the public in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and winners are chosen that become BAFTA nominees.
- The Learning Needs Profiler© from Sancton Wood School/Anglia Ruskin University  
The Learning Needs Profiler (LNP)© developed in close collaboration between the University and the School provides, firstly, a tool for converting the complex information contained in an Educational Psychologist’s report into an easy to interpret ‘Learning Needs Profile’, and secondly, by linking issues identified on the profile to systematically reviewed interventions, with clear information concerning the empirical evidence supporting that intervention.

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- IMPACT – the International Health Impact Assessment Consortium, and IMPACT+ from The University of Liverpool

IMPACT's mission is to improve health and reduce health inequalities by advancing Health Impact Assessment (HIA) nationally and internationally. HIA is "a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population" (European Centre for Health Policy/WHO, 1999). HIA produces evidence-based recommendations to inform planning and decision-making.

- Apnee Sehat "Our Health" from The University of Warwick

Apnee Sehat works with South Asian communities in Leamington, and is currently commissioned by Coventry PCT to deliver healthcare solutions in Foleshill - one of the most deprived areas in England - to raise awareness of and screen for vascular disease in order to reduce the risk of strokes, heart attacks and diabetes.