



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Winners announced in The Impact Awards

**The first ever winners of The Impact Awards were announced last week at a glittering award ceremony designed to recognise and celebrate the impact of innovation.**

Awards were won for a series of novel innovations in three award categories: Business Impact, Environmental Impact and Public Policy and Service Impact. Award winners include a software project that is now installed onto 20 million computers worldwide and has been referred to by Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple, as "the best software you'll *never* see..."\*; a new low-energy processing technology that has realised wider unexpected environmental benefit; a tool to convert complex educational psychologists reports into easy-to-interpret 'Learning Needs Profiles' and an initiative to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

\*Source: Manchester Technology Fund

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.

Speaking of the award winners, Chair of Unico, Professor David Secher said, "These awards celebrate the success of knowledge transfer and exemplify ground-breaking innovations being driven by knowledge transfer. These projects have the capacity to make a real difference." He continued, "In this time of recession it is particularly important that we celebrate the achievements of successes such as these."



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Winners of The Impact Awards were announced 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 winners**

Business Impact Award, sponsored by BDO Stoy Hayward, winner is:

- **Transitive** from The University of Manchester Intellectual Property Ltd (UMIP)

Environmental Impact Award, sponsored by Praxis, winner is:

- **The microwave exfoliation of vermiculite** from The University of Nottingham

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

- **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

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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. On a daily basis they identify markets for research discoveries, protect intellectual property, license new research, create quality 'spinout' companies and provide businesses with world-class expertise and facilities.

### **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

### **Winning project profiles**

Business Impact Award, sponsored by BDO Stoy Hayward, winning entry is:

- 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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Environmental Impact Award, sponsored by Praxis winning entry is:

- 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, winning entries (joint winners) are:

- 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.
- 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.

### Images

A selection of images is available.