27 September 2018

**A celebration of outstanding achievement and business excellence**

**at the PPMA Industry Awards 2018**

The processing and packaging machinery industry celebrated another year of outstanding achievement and business excellence at the 2018 PPMA Industry Awards gala event at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel on 25September.

Hosted by TV personality and comedian, Brian Conley, this year’s PPMA Group industry awards continue to recognise manufacturing excellence, technical innovation, entrepreneurship, customer service, sales and training support, as well as outstanding contribution to the processing and packaging machinery sector.

The highlight of the evening was the announcement of the much-anticipated and prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to Dudley Bradley, the Executive Chairman of Ytron-Quadro (UK) for his forward-thinking and long-standing commitment to the industry.

During his long and esteemed career, Bradley, who started as a process engineer, worked his way through the ranks before forming Ytron-Quadro in 1984; a business, that under his leadership, has experienced phenomenal growth and success.

He has also continued to work tirelessly over the years to support the industry, playing active roles in the PPMA and the International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineering (ISPE).

Competition was extremely strong in all areas, while a host of exciting and ground-breaking new technologies and solutions presented in the series of ‘Innovations Awards’ categories gave the judges a particularly tough job.

New for 2018 was the PPMA BEST (Business, Education, Skills and Training) Award, which was introduced to highlight the importance of addressing the skills shortage. This inaugural award went to Evolution Bottling and Packaging Solutions in recognition of its excellence in commitment to employee training and skills development.

Continuing the theme of industry education, Kyle Constable, an apprentice at Olympus Automation (OAL) was named Apprentice of the Year 2018.

“Once again, we have been overwhelmed by the number and quality of submissions we have received this year for our Awards, in terms of manufacturing excellence, technical innovation, service and support, which clearly indicates that our sector has much to celebrate,” said Dr Andrew Mint, CEO of the PPMA Group.

“However, when looking to the future, we must recognise the challenges that we all face in terms of the skills gap. Therefore, it has been hugely encouraging to see how organisations in our sector are rising to this challenge and we are delighted to recognise this commitment with the introduction of our new PPMA BEST award, as well as honouring our young apprentices; all of whom represent the lifeblood of our industry,” he added.

The 12 award categories were judged by an independent panel of industry experts, professionals, engineers and end users.

**The PPMA Industry Award Winners 2018:**

**Innovative Processing System**

Winner: Packaging Automation

**Innovative Packaging Machinery**

Winner: Brillopak

Highly commended: Adelphi Masterfil

**INNOVATIVE ROBOTIC SOLUTION**

Winner: Gebo Cermex

Highly commended: Olympus Automation

**INNOVATIVE SOLUTION**

Winner: Olympus Automation

**INNOVATIVE ANCILLARY EQUIPMENT**

Winner: Robatech Gluing Technology

**EXPORTER OF THE YEAR**

Winner: Russell Finex

**EXCEPTIONALS SALES PERFORMANCE**

Winner: Gordian Strapping

Highly commended: Riggs Autopack

**PPMA BEST (Business, Education, Skills & Training)**

Winner: Evolution Bottling & Packaging Solutions

Highly commended: 4Matic Design & Manufacture

Highly commended: Winkworth Machinery

**OUTSTANDING CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Winner: Agrimech

Highly commended: Interactive Coding Equipment (ICE)

Highly commended: Russell Finex

Highly commended: Yorkshire Packaging Systems

**ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

Winner: The Adelphi Group of Companies

Highly commended: Garcon Wines

**APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR**

Winner: Kyle Constable – Olympus Automation (OAL)

Certificate: Ben Priest - Simmatic Automation

Certificate: Joe Goldthorpe – Gripple Automation

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Winner: Dudley Bradley, Executive Chairman of Ytron-Quadro (UK)

**ENDS**

**Notes to Editor:**

**The PPMA Group Industry Awards 2018**

The PPMA Group Industry Awards are organised by the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA). <https://www.ppmashow.co.uk/awards/ppma-group-industry-awards>

**About the PPMA Group**

The PPMA Group is the UK’s leading non-profit trade association comprising the Processing and Packaging Machinery Association (PPMA), British Automation & Robot Association (BARA) and UK Industrial Vision Association (UKIVA). Its mission is to actively help its 500+ members through services, tools and initiatives to thrive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

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