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STATIONERS'
C O M P A N Y

Innovation Excellence Awards Announce New Manufacturing Category for 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Date 10th February 2026

The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers today announced the launch of a new Manufacturing category for the 2026 Innovation Excellence Awards (IEAs), reflecting the growing impact of advanced manufacturing, coatings, and materials innovation across the communications and content industries.

The 2026 Awards will culminate in a glittering champagne reception, lunch, and ceremony at Stationers' Hall on Friday, 23 October 2026, bringing together leaders from communications, publishing, packaging, print, materials science, and manufacturing to celebrate the most creative and forward-thinking organisations shaping the future of the sector.

The new Manufacturing category has been introduced to recognise the rapid evolution of materials-led innovation — from sustainable coatings and advanced substrates to smart packaging and next-generation production processes — that are redefining how products are designed, produced, and experienced.

Kate Howell and Vida Barr-Jones, Co-Chairs of the Innovation Excellence Awards, said: “Over the past few years, we’ve seen extraordinary growth in innovation driven by coatings, materials science, and advanced manufacturing — from sustainable packaging and barrier technologies to new production methods that improve performance, reduce environmental impact, and unlock entirely new applications.

Introducing a Manufacturing category allows us to properly recognise the brilliant work happening at the intersection of materials, technology, and creativity — and to celebrate the engineers, manufacturers, and innovators who are quietly transforming our industries from the inside out.”

2026 Innovation Excellence Awards Categories

For 2026, entries will be invited across the following categories:

- Business Process
- Communications and Engagement

- Customer Experience
- Education Technology
- Product Design
- Start Up
- Manufacturing (New for 2026)

Ongoing Sponsorship Support

The Stationers' Company is delighted to confirm that Pearson and Picon have renewed their sponsorship for the 2026 Innovation Excellence Awards. Their continued support plays a vital role in enabling the Awards to champion innovation, sustainability, and excellence across the communications and content industries. The Company is now welcoming expressions of interest from organisations wishing to support the 2026 Awards through a range of tailored sponsorship opportunities, designed to align partners with innovation, sustainability, and leadership across the communications, content, materials, and manufacturing sectors.

Full details of sponsorship levels, benefits, and visibility opportunities can be found in our Sponsorship Prospectus (PDF):

[Sponsorship PDF](#)

About the Innovation Excellence Awards

Now in their second decade, the Innovation Excellence Awards are one of the City of London's leading platforms for recognising creativity, technical achievement, and commercial impact across the communications, content, and materials industries. Winners benefit from a high-profile PR campaign, industry recognition, and the opportunity to showcase their work to a wide professional audience at Stationers' Hall.

Further details about categories, judging, sponsorship, and entry timelines can be found at:

<https://www.stationers.org/company/engagement-with-our-industries/innovation-excellence-awards-intro>

Notes to editors:

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About The Stationers' Company

The Stationers' Company is the City of London Livery Company for the Communications and Content industries. The Company's mission is to be the most effective independent forum in the UK Communications and Content industries, actively contributing to the strategic development, success and education of these industries. The majority of our members work in or supply the paper, print, publishing, packaging, office products, newspaper, broadcasting and online media industries.