

Institute of Water

NORTHERN AREA INNOVATION AWARDS 2018

This document is designed to assist potential applicants of the Institute of Water (IoW) Innovation Awards. The awards aim to recognise outstanding innovations within the industry.

These awards are open to all individuals, teams or organisations that operate within the Northern Area of the Institute of Water. The Northern Area comprises of the operational areas of Yorkshire Water, Northumbrian Water and United Utilities. Entry is **not** restricted to IoW members. The innovation submitted must have been applied or implemented within the UK.

The Award Process

The methodology used to evaluate the applications and identify the individuals / teams / organisations to be recognised will be as follows:

- The judging panel will conduct a desktop assessment of each application, using an award-scoring model.
- Judging panel meets to achieve consensus on finalists
- Finalists will be invited to present their entry at a judging event
- Feedback to applicants will be provided on request
- One entry will be recommended by the judging panel for the National Innovation Awards.

Entries

Entries should fall into one of the categories listed below and should be in use within the Northern Area.

Innovative Technology

Entries within this category will identify innovations relating to something physical that is produced through manufacture or construction, or approaches to servicing, maintenance and repair.

Customer Service

Entries within this category will identify innovations relating to work or activities conducted or providing improved customer service.

Ways of Working

Entries within this category will identify innovations relating to procedures and practices in the operational businesses. Innovations relating to the delivery of capital projects will also be considered in this category.

Society and Sustainability

Entries within this category will identify innovations relating to the wider community and environment.

How to enter...

To enter the award process you will need to complete the following steps:

Step 1 – Email northern@instituteofwater.org.uk or contact your local representative (Matthew Summers, Northumbrian Water, matthew.summers@nwl.co.uk) for the relevant application form and to register your interest. Alternatively, please contact the Institute of Water via the website.

Step 2 - Complete the relevant application.

The total word count is 2,600

No appendices are to be attached, but in addition to the 2,600 word limit on text, diagrams, pictures and charts etc may also be provided to assist the assessors in understanding the innovation.

Step 3 – Send your completed submission by **Friday 9th February 2018** to northern@instituteofwater.org.uk. This is the closing date of the Northern Area awards to allow judging to be undertaken. The successful application will be submitted to represent the Northern Area in the National Awards.

Queries?

Please email us with your query and one of the team will respond as quickly as possible.

Submitting evidence – Some simple tips

The judging panel will base their decisions on the evidence you present in your answers. The applications have a limited word count so don't waste valuable space with irrelevant information - answer the question explicitly.

Evidence – Information to qualify as evidence should be a statement that is qualified e.g. This product has achieved a 30% market share, which is the current industry lead based on research conducted by Mori – Mori research paper xyz 2008.

The scoring system is designed to measure the extent of the evidence - avoid phrases of ambiguity

E.g. the process has evolved over time, our people are committed, etc.

When submitting data in any of the answers, but particularly the impact criteria – where possible refrain from statements of intent e.g. the introduction of this service will result in a 30% reduction in operating cost.

Photos, diagrams and charts may be included to increase the assessors understanding of the innovation.

Scoring Guidelines

1. Overview – provide detail of the innovation you are submitting for inclusion in the Innovation Awards. Supporting evidence: This answer should contain a summary of the innovation; tell us what it is and what it does.

This answer should enable the judges to have a clear understanding of the innovation. Keep it as simple and self-explanatory as possible. This answer is not scored; its inclusion is to enable the judges to understand the innovation and its environment.

2. Development - provide detail of the innovation development process, detail the methodology and stages of the development process. Supporting evidence: This answer should include a summary of the design and development of the innovation.

This answer should enable the assessors and judges to have a clear understanding of the innovation development process. The judges will evaluate the extent of the evidence presented. Remember it becomes evidence when you qualify the statement; the submission will be scored based on the descriptions in the scoring template below

- 0-20% Little meaningful evidence provided
- 21 – 40% Some evidence of a structured development process
- 41 – 60% Evidence of a structured approach
- 61 – 80% Clear evidence of a robust and proven system
- 81 – 100% Highly systematic and innovative process

3. Differentiation – what are the key differentiation characteristics of your innovation?

Supporting evidence: The essence of innovation is the ability to produce something different; hence this answer should include how your innovation separates itself.

This answer should enable the judges to have a clear understanding of how the product differentiates itself from other products of a similar type. The

judges will evaluate the extent of the evidence presented, and will score your submission based on the descriptions in the scoring template below.

- 0-20% Little evidence of differentiation
- 21 – 40% Limited differentiated features
- 41 – 60% Evidence of differentiated features
- 61 – 80% Many unique features, very few competitors
- 81 – 100% A unique breakthrough

4. Impact - provide the results of the introduction of your innovation.

Supporting evidence: The two previous questions have concentrated on the specifics of the innovation, this answer should include the numerical data that highlights innovation - all data presented can be factored to protect confidentiality.

This answer should contain numerical results – minimize descriptive content, unless you are providing comments that explain the data. The scoring template below indicates the emphasis the judges will place on the evidence.

- 0-20% Little evidences of results
- 21 – 40% Some positive results
- 41 – 60% Positive results in a number of areas
- 61 – 80% High impact in a number of areas
- 81 – 100% High impact to all stakeholders