

News Release

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North West NHS Innovation Awards 2009 - Launch in May

The 2009 North West NHS Innovation Awards competition launch is nearly upon us. Managed by *TrusTECH*, the North West NHS Innovation Hub, the awards provide the opportunity to win up to £1000 and receive advice from specialist NHS Innovation Managers at *TrusTECH*.

This year, applications are invited for each of the four core categories below (each with a £1000 prize for the first prize winner towards further development of their innovation).

1. Training or Educational Materials
2. Medical Device, Equipment, Diagnostics, or Therapeutics
3. Software/Systems
4. Service Innovations or Developments

The awards are open to anyone with an employment or honorary contract with a North West NHS organisation. Last year's awards saw more than 100 entries, across 4 categories, submitted for consideration by a judging panel of 16 experts from within the NHS, professional media and specialist commercial companies.

TrusTECH strongly urges any employee who:

- is developing or has an idea for a new healthcare product; or
- has implemented an innovative product or service that has demonstrated improved patient care, cost savings or other benefits within their Trust

to apply for the awards this year.

The innovation described in the application should:

- a. Be original and innovative (the applicant must have made reasonable efforts to ensure that a similar innovation has not been developed elsewhere)
- b. Meet a clear healthcare need
- c. Have the ability to benefit healthcare
- d. Have been developed by the applicant (either alone or in collaboration with others)
- e. Fit into one of the competition categories

The awards are presented directly to the innovators on behalf of their trusts with the winning professional in each category picking up a cheque for £1000 on behalf of their Trust. In addition the winners may also be put forward for a National Awards program, organised by the National Innovation Centre.

Richard Deed, Innovation Unit Manager of *TrusTECH* says “Now in its seventh year the North West NHS Innovation Awards is the only scheme dedicated to rewarding North West NHS innovators. Previous year’s awards have highlighted the vast amount of innovations that are taking place and being developed in NHS Trusts across the North West. It really does show that our region is at the forefront of NHS innovation and we hope this continues.”

-ENDS-

Note for Editors:

About the Competition:

The North West NHS Innovation Awards, launched by *TrusTECH* in 2002 to all NHS Trusts in the North West, is the only scheme dedicated to rewarding North West NHS Innovators.

About last year’s competition:

- In 2008 *TrusTECH* received 114 applications for the competition. 47 applications were received in the Service Innovations or Developments Category (47%); 33 received in the Training or Educational Materials category (29%); 21 received in the Software/Systems category (18%); and 13 received in the Medical Device, Equipment, Diagnostics, or Therapeutics category (11%).

- A total of 42 Trusts in the North West had representatives who submitted an application; no applications were submitted from representatives of the remaining 21 Trusts.
- The competition opened in May 2008 with the closing date for applications on Friday 4 July 2008.
- The award ceremony took place on Tuesday 28 October, at the Last Drop Village Hotel, Bolton, Lancashire.

About TrusTECH

- In 2008 TrusTECH (www.trustech.org.uk) was established in early 2001, as a partnership between Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Central Lancashire.
- TrusTECH is part of the NHS and serves 55 NHS Trusts across the North West.
- TrusTECH is one of nine regional innovation hubs based in England and coordinated by the National Innovation Centre (NIC; www.nic.nhs.uk).

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