

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMPOSITES INDUSTRY 2024

WINNER: Prof. Mike Hinton

Professor Mike Hinton has had a long and very distinguished career at the forefront of composites in industry within Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and working with academia.

His career stretches back to senior technical and management posts within the Ministry of Defence (MoD), the Defence Research Agency, and latterly QinetiQ, introducing the first use of composite structures in safety critical weapons systems, e.g. NLAW rocket motors, now part of SAAB's LAW MBT.

His role as MoD/Defence Evaluation and Research Agency (DERA) Chief Scientific Officer (land) ensured that he was involved in composites developments at all technology and manufacturing readiness levels. Whilst in DERA he proposed and launched the Technical Fellows community, becoming Dean.

Frustrated by a lack of progress and agreement in the critical area of composites failure prediction, he launched the Worldwide Failure Exercise over a period of 22 years (1992-2014) which evaluated the performance of various failure theories for predicting how composite materials would fail under different stress conditions. This was a remarkable achievement which has left a lasting legacy for the community after which he was inducted as a World Fellow of the ICCM in 2019.

He became the inaugural technology director of the National Composites Centre (NCC) and subsequently of the High Value Manufacturing Catapult (HVMC), where he continues to act as a consultant supporting strategy and the development of technical capabilities. Notably he has acted as Chair of CIMComp Advisory Board since 2017.

His impact, often behind the scenes on numerous boards and committees, has helped frame the strategic direction of the composite industry in the UK and cannot be underestimated.

He is a major scientific and engineering influencer respected by senior colleagues around the world.



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