

PROF. ALAN BANKS YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

FINALIST: Declan Wray

Declan Wray works within Teledyne CML Composites' Continuous Improvement team, where he identifies opportunities to improve operational performance. Having progressed from an apprenticeship as a Composites Technician, through Quality and into Continuous Improvement, he combines strong technical knowledge with practical problem-solving skills.

Declan is currently studying towards an HNC, building on his apprenticeship and continuing to develop his engineering knowledge. In his current role, he works closely with production and operational teams to analyse processes, implement improvements and embed Lean principles across the business. He has taken a leading role in improvement initiatives, delivering measurable gains in productivity and efficiency. One notable achievement was leading an improvement programme around a production bottleneck, which increased throughput by 16%. He subsequently applied the same approach in another manufacturing area, demonstrating his ability to transfer learning and deliver improvements across different functions.

Declan has also helped strengthen workplace organisation, visibility and accountability through the introduction of structured Lean practices. Alongside larger projects, he consistently identifies practical opportunities to improve machine utilisation, workflow and efficiency. His willingness to challenge established practices and take ownership of improvements has generated tangible business benefits.

Beyond his technical contribution, Declan supports colleagues in adopting Lean methodologies and shares his knowledge across production, quality and operational teams. As someone who has progressed through different roles within the business, he is also a positive role model for apprentices and early-career engineers. What sets Declan apart is his combination of technical understanding, initiative and measurable impact. His rapid progression, continued commitment to learning and ability to influence others demonstrate maturity and leadership beyond what would normally be expected at his career stage. He has already established himself as a trusted contributor to operational improvement and shows clear potential as a future engineering leader.



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