

PROF. ALAN BANKS YOUNG ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

FINALIST: Sophie Warburton

Sophie Warburton is a Software Engineer at Cygnet Texkimp, where her career has progressed rapidly since joining the company in 2023. With previous experience in electrical and automation engineering but no background in composites or machine software, she has developed into a highly skilled engineer capable of writing software and control systems for complex manufacturing equipment.

Sophie graduated with a degree in Controls & Automation in 2025, delivered by Siemens in partnership with the University of Salford while she continued working full time. She also holds an HNC in Electrical Engineering, demonstrating her strong commitment to continuous learning.



In just 2.5 years, Sophie has taken on responsibility for software commissioning with major international customers. A particularly significant achievement was developing software and control systems from scratch for a major processing line, while introducing a new control platform to Cygnet Texkimp. This represented a significant expansion of the company's software capability and has strengthened its relationship with a key technology partner.

Sophie recently led the commissioning of this equipment in the US, managing the technical challenges and pressures of working on-site with a major customer. Her ability to combine technical knowledge with practical problem-solving, resilience and professionalism has enabled her to thrive in demanding environments. Beyond her technical responsibilities, Sophie is an enthusiastic mentor who actively supports the development of younger engineers. She has mentored an engineering apprentice during an international installation, using the opportunity to share her knowledge of software, controls and commissioning.

What makes Sophie stand out is the speed and breadth of her development. In just a few years, she has moved into a highly specialised area, taken ownership of major customer projects and helped introduce new technology into the business. Her intelligence, determination and enthusiasm, combined with her willingness to share knowledge, make her an exceptional young engineer with significant future potential.

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