

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE COMPOSITES INDUSTRY

WINNER: Alun Reece

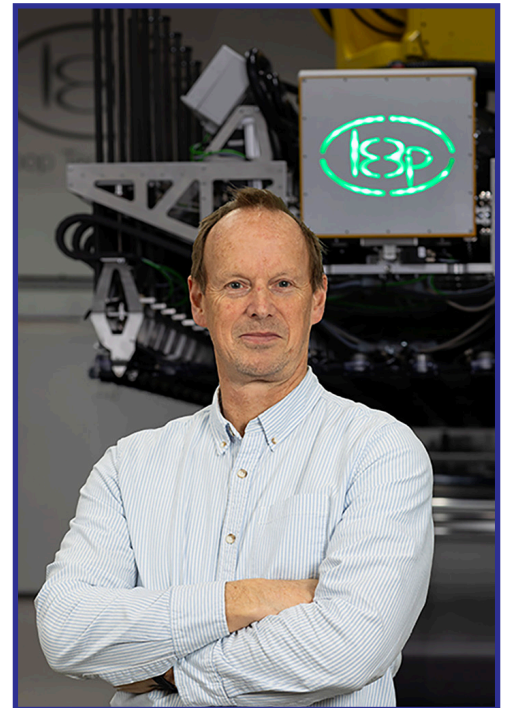
Alun founded Loop Technology in 1998 and has since grown it into a global industrial automation specialist, building cutting-edge systems at the frontier of advanced manufacturing.

A defining achievement of Alun's career has been the development of FibreLINE, a groundbreaking ultra-high-rate manufacturing line for aerospace composite structures, including wings and empennage. Under his leadership, Loop Technology has continually pushed the boundaries of automation, working collaboratively with customers, suppliers and research organisations to turn ambitious concepts into reality.

The technology was first developed in Belfast for Bombardier in 2014, before progressing through the NCC as part of Airbus' Wing of Tomorrow programme and, most recently, into the University of Sheffield AMRC's COMPASS facility as part of the Boeing-led IHSS project. This progression demonstrates Alun's sustained commitment to developing and applying advanced manufacturing technology across major aerospace programmes. Rather than pursuing innovation in isolation, he has built partnerships across industry and academia, helping to bring together the expertise, investment and technology needed to move ambitious ideas towards practical application. Alun played a pivotal role, alongside AMRC's Rob Hewison, in establishing COMPASS, helping to develop the concept, secure investment and integrate advanced automation. The facility's opening in July 2026 represents another significant milestone in his contribution to the progression of composite manufacturing.

His contribution extends beyond technological innovation. Alun has fostered a collaborative, can-do culture that has enabled Loop Technology and its partners to make significant technological advances in just a few years. His approach has encouraged both colleagues and suppliers to take on ambitious challenges and develop new solutions. Colleagues recognise Alun for his honesty, integrity and professionalism. Across almost three decades, his leadership has helped establish Loop Technology as an important contributor to the UK's advanced manufacturing capability, while his work has supported the continued development and adoption of innovative automation within the composites industry.

His career is characterised by a consistent commitment to innovation, collaboration and the advancement of UK composites, making him a fitting recipient of the 2026 Outstanding Contribution of the Year Award.



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