

Furalkamines the future



What does the future hold for Paul Jones FRSC? Already a highly acclaimed world leading polymer expert, recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, winner of The Queens Award for Enterprise and Director of three companies.

Paul Jones, Managing Director and Head of R&D joined Wigan based Bitrez as a 17-year-old Apprentice Technician. His intelligence, skills and determination enabled him to rise through the ranks to Development Chemist, Operations Manager and now Co-owner.

Bitrez leads the way in designing, developing, and manufacturing award-winning polymers and speciality synthetic resins. Paul is at the forefront of these cutting-edge innovations. These niche polymers are designed to offer regulatory compliance and technical solutions to customer requirements finding application in an extensive number of areas.

One of Paul's most recent achievements in 2020 has been his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC). Fellows are recognised as being experts in the industry of chemical sciences.

On Paul's Fellowship, Technical Director of Ru-bix Tooling Board/Advanced Thermosets Ltd, Dr Barrie G. Colvin FRSC, said: "Paul has a very rare quality of being a complete expert in the chemistry and application of epoxies, as well as achieving a very high professional position within that industry. He is clearly the person to go to for any question or advice in connection with epoxies and I have always found him unusually knowledgeable and helpful.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that he has had a major impact on the successful growth of the composites industry, a business sector that is growing rapidly in the UK and across the world...."

News of Paul's Fellowship has been far reaching with articles published in the European Coatings Journal, Europe's foremost magazine for the coatings industry and Coatings World, which has a global reach to the lucrative coatings market. Paul has also featured in the 2020 Parliamentary Review and written numerous scientific articles.

Further accolades in 2020 saw Paul recognised as a CEO Today Award winner. The CEO Today magazine researches innovative CEO's who have taken their companies to new levels and deserve recognition for these achievements. He also won Most Innovative Management Professional at the Corporate LiveWire Innovation and Excellence Awards. The judges "applauded Paul for his focus on changing the face of the polymer industry through innovative bio-derived polymers." Paul recently developed the new sustainable

epoxy curing agents coined Furalkamines, which are patent pending.

Paul's achievements have not stopped there and have seen him launch a further two successful businesses. Chemical Processing Services Ltd, which focusses on sustainable polymer chemistry providing a bespoke consultancy service and Anacarda, specialist supplier of polymers derived from cashew nut shell liquid.

Paul and his highly skilled team at Bitrez have shown dedication and expertise to the chemical industry for nearly 40 years. Bitrez, founded in 1982 with a head office in Wigan has a turnover of £25m. It employs 100 people over two sites running 24/7 operations. It is an established and important local employer for the area.

Paul pioneered the research and development of Curaphen, a Bisphenol A (BPA) free phenolic resin. This revolutionary product led the team to win the Queens Award for Enterprise in the Innovation category in 2019. Curaphen is used in the internal coatings of food and drink packaging worldwide. It provides REACH compliant, safer specifications and has been a major commercial success for Bitrez. Curaphen is now a bestseller and has significantly contributed to Bitrez expanding in the UK and globally.

Curaphen also led Bitrez to win Manufacturing Company of the year 2019 at the Chemicals Northwest Awards. Further wins followed at the MakeUK Awards and the IChemE 2019 Global Awards. 2019 was rounded off with the team winning Business of the Year at the Wigan Chamber Awards.

In early 2020 Bitrez won the Chemicals Northwest International Trade Award for Curamine, a non-toxic Ketamine alternative coating. Paul led the research and development of Curamine and Bitrez now hold 100% of the European market.

Bitrez have featured in 'Chemistry for a better tomorrow', a pioneering documentary series from ITN Productions and the Chemical Industries Association (CIA) exploring the importance and value of the chemical and pharmaceutical industry in the UK.

Globally, Bitrez have partnered with Georgia-Pacific Chemicals as exclusive distributor for Curaphen across America, Canada and Mexico and appointed Dr Shahid Quershi as Technical Specialist for North America. They also have Head Quarters in Shanghai.

The future holds promise for Paul and his team...



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