NEAA Annual Awards 2027

Awards Categories

Friday 19th March 2027

Ramside Hall Hotel
Durham

Celebrating the people, businesses and ideas driving excellence, resilience and progress across the North East automotive sector.

People, Skills & Future Talent

GEOFF FORD MBE APPRENTICE AWARD

Recognising an outstanding apprentice whose development, workplace contribution and positive ambassadorship demonstrate exceptional achievement and future potential.

RISING TALENT AWARD – *NEW*

Celebrating an early-career professional who is already delivering measurable workplace impact and demonstrating ambition, initiative and exceptional potential.

WOMEN WHO INSPIRE IN AUTOMOTIVE AWARD

Recognising women who empower others, drive positive change and act as inspirational ambassadors for women across the automotive industry.

UNSUNG HERO AWARD - *NEW*

Celebrating people who may not always be in the spotlight, but whose initiative and practical problem-solving has delivered a measurable improvement to their organisation and/or the wider environment.

Business & Industry Excellence

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE AWARD - *NEW*

Recognising organisations taking bold, practical action to become more innovative, resilient and future-ready through transformation, capability investment and measurable impact.

PEOPLE & CULTURE EXCELLENCE AWARD - *NEW*

Celebrating organisations that put people at the heart of their success, creating inclusive cultures while investing in future talent, skills, development, engagement and retention.

SME EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Recognising high-performing SMEs with strong strategy, leadership, customer value, improvement activity, carbon reduction and digital capability.

- Manufacturing SME of the Year
- Service Provider SME of the Year

Special Recognition

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD

One of the evening's most prestigious honours, recognising an exceptional individual whose achievements, leadership, advocacy and dedication have made a significant and lasting impact on the North East automotive sector.

AWARDS WITH IMPACT

Many category winners direct an award donation to an automotive or STEM project at a school of their choice, connecting industry recognition with future talent.

KEY DATES

Entries close: Monday 8th February 2027.
Judging: During w/c 15th and 22nd February 2027
Finalists notified & announced: During w/c 1st March 2027.
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