

News Release

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Double success for Vantec at regional automotive awards 2024

Vantec Europe is proud to announce its double triumph at the prestigious **North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA) Annual Awards**, an event that celebrates future talent, inspirational leaders and forward-thinking businesses shaping the future of the automotive industry.

Among the evening's highlights was the presentation of the **Outstanding Contribution Award to Martin Kendall**, Managing Director of Vantec Europe, in recognition of his remarkable career and enduring impact on the sector.

Martin shared his inspiring journey with the audience, recounting how he arrived in South Shields at just 16 years old with £40 and an O Level in woodwork. He began his career at Ford Aerospace before joining Nissan, where he progressed from forklift truck (FLT) driver to FLT instructor, then to Material Handling Supervisor in 1990 and Material Handling Engineer in 1999.

In 2002, Martin joined Autrans (now Vantec Europe) as General Manager and later became Managing Director. Reflecting on his career, Martin said:

"I was very surprised and humbled but delighted to receive the Outstanding Contribution Award. I've had an amazing career in advanced manufacturing, automotive and logistics - starting at Ford Aerospace, followed by 16 years at Nissan, and now 22 years and counting at Vantec Europe.

For me, it's always been about the people - at every level from the shop floor to apprentices, office staff and senior management. I'm a forklift truck driver by trade and proud of it. Every single person matters and I'm passionate about bringing the right people with the right attitude into the sector - they're the ones who will shape the future.

I can't champion the North East and its people enough. From the day I arrived, I was welcomed and I've met incredible individuals from all walks of life. I'm an adopted SandDancer, and it's been an absolute pleasure."

The awards ceremony, hosted by renowned journalist and campaigner **Charlie Charlton**, welcomed over 300 guests and celebrated excellence across eight categories. Vantec Europe was also honoured with the **Digital Transformation Award**, with judges and category sponsor **NA College** unanimously recognising Vantec's standout achievements.

Vantec's success in digital transformation stems from its strategic alignment of digital initiatives with corporate objectives. This approach enabled the development of a comprehensive digital roadmap, driving innovation across the business, the automotive and advanced manufacturing sectors, and contributing positively to environmental sustainability.

These accolades reflect Vantec Europe's commitment to excellence, innovation and its people - hallmarks of a company that continues to lead and inspire within the automotive industry.

〈Pictures at the event〉



Image: Martin Kendall, MD receiving the Outstanding Contribution Award



Team from Vantec collect the Digital Transformation Award from NA College and Presenter Charlie Charlton at the NEAA Awards 2024

Toward New Dimensions
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【Contact Information】

Vantec Europe Limited
Communications

Communications@vanteceurope.com

Tel: +44 (0)191 416 1133