

Pioneering companies win prestigious Lighthouse Award

Collaboration was the key to success for the seven winners of the 2023 Lighthouse Awards, which were presented during BlueTech Forum in Edinburgh, Scotland. Pioneers and visionaries within the water sector were recognised at a ceremony held at the National Museum of Scotland on 17th May.



Projects for the oil & gas, food & beverage, pharmaceutical and water utility sectors were all successful. Technologies included water reuse, water recovery through zero liquid discharge and digital stormwater management. A documentary charting water scarcity and a collaborative accelerator programme for technology startups were also award winners.

The Brave Blue World Foundation launched the Lighthouse Awards in 2020 to recognise corporations and utilities that are reducing impact in water stressed regions, including those implementing circular practices, and establishing ambitious targets with tangible timelines.

Winners were selected by delegates to the event and a specially selected investor judging panel, comprising water professionals from around the world

Paul O’Callaghan, chief executive of [BlueTech Research](#), which hosted the Forum, and a representative of the Brave Blue World Foundation said, “Congratulations to

all the winners of this year's Lighthouse Awards. They all reflect the level and new wave of innovation happening now in digital and technological transformation.

The quality of the innovations and storytelling showcased was very high and one of the things we are most proud of is how clear and strong their value propositions are. We know they will all go on to change the landscape of water management as they also fit closely with the theme of this year's BlueTech Forum – innovation with impact.”



Lighthouse Award winners



ABinBev's 100+ Accelerator

This innovation programme to fuel the growth of startups was established by AB InBev, Coca-Cola, Colgate-Palmolive, and Unilever in 2018, with the goal of connecting global corporations with innovative entrepreneurs developing break through advancements for water stewardship and sustainability.

Accepting the award, Molun Zhang, R&D senior manager - experimentation and external technology acquisition at the Coca-Cola Company said, "The programme is a joint venture across many industries and many thought-leaders; it is a real achievement to win this award. We would not be here without the startups and innovators themselves and we always invite others to join them."

Ecopetrol

Columbia-based energy company Ecopetrol won a Lighthouse Award for the development of a pilot agri-energy wastewater reuse project. Treating wastewater from oil & gas production to a high quality and returning it to the environment for use in livestock watering and forestry is helping to improve water security, stabilise seasonal variability for users, and is reducing Ecopetrol's water footprint to achieve water neutrality by 2045.

Giovanni Annicchiar, head of production at Ecopetrol said, "Now we have new challenges to be even more sustainable, not only in the oil industry but as a society. That is why we need to face these challenges with different points of view, different processes, and with an integrated view."

Grundfos Foundation

The Grundfos Foundation developed a film short charting the true story of the water scarcity struggles in Karachi, Pakistan. Into Dust, a collaboration between Academy

Award winning filmmaker Orlando von Einsiedel and the Karachi-based NGO Orangi Pilot Project, tells the story of Perween Rahman a courageous woman who sacrificed everything to provide Karachi's poorest communities with clean, safe water.

Aquatech

Technology company Aquatech won for its extraordinary collaboration with pharmaceutical company ACG to recover more than 95% of the water at its plant in India, using Aquatech's zero liquid discharge technology.

Pepsico

Food and beverage corporation Pepsico won with a technology that recovers up to 60% of the water used in its potato chip manufacturing line. By capturing, condensing, treating, and reusing steam, the company is saving 60 million litres of water yearly.

Aarhus Vand

Dutch water utility Aarhus Vand won with its plans to convert an existing wastewater treatment plant into a water resource recovery facility, recovering biofuels, bio-charcoal, and soil conditioner from wastewater.

Walmart and Opti

A collaboration between supermarket chain Walmart and stormwater management company Opti secured the final Lighthouse Award for its project using real-time monitoring and digital control systems to reduce pollutants discharged from stormwater retention ponds, across three sites in the US.