



2020

SPECIALISTS

AWARDS

THE
WINNERS

GROUND ENGINEERING SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR



“Innovation with this ground engineering solution has minimised both cost and environmental impact, and has been adopted by a diverse client base”

JUDGES' COMMENT

FINALISTS

- Aarsleff Ground Engineering
- Green Piling
- Ivor King
- McCoy Contractors

WINNER: VIBRO MENARD

A specialist even within ground engineering, Vibro Menard focuses on vibro-stone and controlled-modulus columns (CMCs), as well as other ground-improvement techniques.

The firm has increased turnover from £11.6m in 2018 to a projected £16.5m at the time of entry submission for 2019, fuelling further investment in staff and plant. Supporting this growth has been a 21 per cent increase in the number of contracts secured using the CMC system. CMC offers benefits in poor soils where ground improvement has hitherto been considered unfeasible. The judges heard that while the introduction of a new technology often risks meeting with resistance from customers, the firm's technical support throughout the tender and construction phases projects has helped clients to understand the cost, programme and safety benefits – and has been rewarded with repeat business.

The judges said: “Innovation with this ground engineering solution has minimised both cost and environmental impact, and has been adopted by a diverse client base.”

The panel was also impressed with the company's clear understanding of sector challenges, such as diversity and legacy planning, and its future-leaders programme.

The business takes an enthusiastic, cross-company approach to health and safety issues, and

has recorded a zero accident frequency rate for the past three years. It promotes a culture of personal responsibility among employees, instilling an understanding of the consequences that colleagues' behaviour has on others. This approach, has been central to Vibro Menard's excellent recent safety performance, and has driven the firm's operative apprenticeship scheme and future-managers ILM apprenticeship scheme. All staff have received wellbeing and mental health awareness training in the past 12 months, and have taken part in an annual safety shut-down day.

The firm is also introducing its proprietary Omnibox system, which provides real-time remote access to data during the construction phase, allowing production statistics and drilling parameters to be quickly analysed and adjusted.

The judges commended Vibro Menard's appetite for new systems and processes. They said: “Digitisation is embedded within this organisation; it is constantly pushing further with new technology.” Examples include its Maps database, which contains previous site investigations and information on geotechnical risks, as well as its TIPS reporting software for site performance and records, which reduces the need for paperwork on site, thereby ensuring that site supervisors have more time to manage safety and quality.