



# CELEBRATING **iirsm** RISK EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2026

# RISK EXCELLENCE

Highlighting the individuals and teams who make a difference with the IIRSM Risk Excellence Awards 2026

**T**he world of risk management continues to evolve at pace. Against this backdrop, the IIRSM Risk Excellence Awards 2026 once again shone a spotlight on the individuals, organisations and initiatives making a meaningful difference.

Bringing together finalists and winners from across sectors and geographies at the Sheraton Grand London Park Lane on 21 May, the awards demonstrated the breadth of the profession and its increasing influence in shaping safer, more resilient workplaces and communities.

We would like to thank everyone who submitted entries and send our congratulations to the winners. Thank you to our headline sponsor HSI Donesafe, category sponsors Marsh and Amazon and event supporter PHSC plc.

Phillip Pearson, IIRSM Chief Executive, said: "The standard of entrants has continued to improve year on year, and we were delighted to celebrate those who have demonstrated a rich understanding of the complexities and benefits of excellent risk management."

The awards have long served as an opportunity to celebrate achievement, but this year's winners also revealed something more significant: risk management is increasingly being driven by collaboration, evidence and innovation.

For Dr Waleed Umer, Assistant Professor at Northumbria University, who was recognised with a highly commended in the category of Technological Breakthrough of the Year, the award highlighted "how innovation, research and industry collaboration can come together to address some of the most important safety challenges facing industries today." He added: "I believe emerging technologies have enormous potential to improve both safety and productivity and it is exciting to be part of that journey."

The winner of that category was Partrac Limited, a Venterra Group company. Sam Athey, Managing Director at Partrac, said: "V-LiDAR was developed with a clear focus on reducing offshore risk while delivering high integrity, reliable data. This award is an important recognition of that approach and reflects the expertise, commitment and safety-first mindset of the team behind it."

Claire Binns, Group Director of HSSEQ at Venterra Group, added: "Innovation delivers the greatest value when it improves safety outcomes. To be recognised by IIRSM is a real honour, particularly in an area as critical as risk excellence. It speaks to the strength of collaboration across Partrac and Venterra Group and our shared commitment to advancing safer offshore wind technologies."

Risk Team of the Year, sponsored by Marsh, was won by Saudi Arabia Railways' SRGC Department.

Abdulaziz A Alzaydan, Safety Compliance Section Head at Saudi Arabia Railways (SAR), said: "This reflects SAR's continued dedication to positioning safety and risk management as



**WINNER**  
 Barry Holt Award  
 for Outstanding Risk  
 Management Practice  
 ABB Process Industries  
 Risk Team



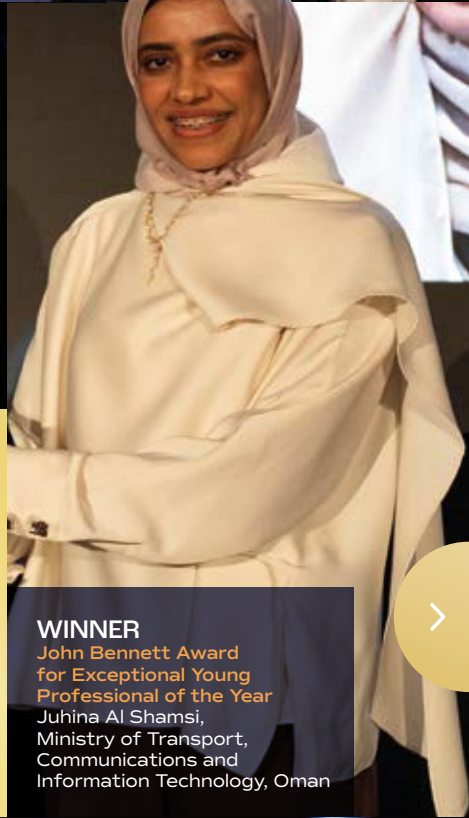
**WINNER**  
 Leaders in Employee Safety and  
 Wellbeing, sponsored by hsi donesafe  
 Ashview Consultants



**HIGHLY  
 COMMENDED**  
 Technological  
 Breakthrough  
 of the Year  
 Waleed Umer,  
 Northumbria University



**WINNER**  
 Technological  
 Breakthrough  
 of the Year  
 Partrac Limited,  
 a Venterra  
 Group company



**WINNER**  
 John Bennett Award  
 for Exceptional Young  
 Professional of the Year  
 Juhina Al Shamsi,  
 Ministry of Transport,  
 Communications and  
 Information Technology, Oman



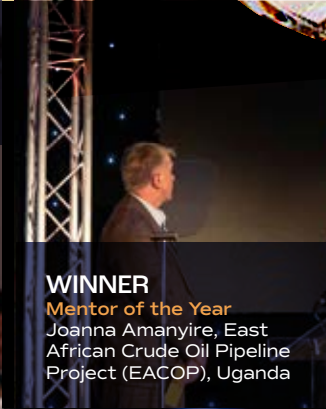
**WINNER**  
 Most Impactful Risk Research Project,  
 sponsored by amazon  
 Learning from Normal Work: Psychology  
 Applied and TE Connectivity



**AND THE  
 WINNERS ARE**



**WINNER**  
 IIRSM Presidents'  
 Commendation  
 Karen J Hewitt



**WINNER**  
 Mentor of the Year  
 Joanna Amanyire, East  
 African Crude Oil Pipeline  
 Project (EACOP), Uganda



**WINNER**  
 Employee Learning  
 Programme of the Year  
 Fujitsu



**WINNER**  
 Risk Team of the Year,  
 sponsored by MARSH  
 Saudi Arabia Railways  
 SRGC Department



**WINNER**  
 Leading Sustainability  
 Initiative of the Year  
 Mitsubishi Electric Middle  
 East, Africa and CIS Co. LLC



SHARE  
WITH YOUR  
NETWORK



Barry Holt Award  
for Outstanding Risk Management Practice





key drivers of strategic value. This achievement highlights the collective commitment of Saudi Railways Company to advancing industry standards through strong governance, operational excellence and a resilient safety culture.

“This recognition is not only a proud moment for our safety teams, but also for SAR’s leadership and every employee who plays a role in making safety more than a compliance requirement. It represents our shared belief that safety must be embedded in the way we think, lead and operate every day, supporting a safer, more sustainable and higher-performing railway sector.”

The winners of the Most Impactful Risk Research Project, sponsored by Amazon, were Learning from Normal Work: Psychology Applied and TE Connectivity.

The judges said the winning submission stood out for its “outstanding scientific rigour, using a highly sophisticated pre-test and post-test research design that clearly demonstrated real, intervention-driven improvement, not just familiarity or assumption”.

The project showed Learning from Normal Work as a practical way to identify risk earlier, understand how work really happens and convert that insight into actions that reduce the chance of mistakes and strengthen operational performance.

Founder and CEO of Learning from Normal Work Marcin Nazaruk said: “We built Learning from Normal Work to change how leaders think and engage with frontline work and then we measured whether it actually worked. The answer was clear and this award from IIRSM confirms it.”

The winner of the John Bennett Award for Exceptional Young Professional of the Year was Juhina Al Shamsi, of the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Information Technology, Oman. She said: “This recognition is immensely motivating as I continue working to strengthen cross-border risk frameworks and forward-thinking logistics strategies. It reinforces the importance of empowering the next generation of risk professionals to navigate an increasingly complex global landscape.”

John Pares, Co-President of IIRSM, said: “Congratulations also to runners-up Emelia Ntiamoah and Muhene Kamundi. The three finalists emphasise the international scope of IIRSM and the talent and commitment of these young professionals signals a bright future for the Institute.”

The Barry Holt Award for Outstanding Risk Management Practice went to ABB Process Industries Risk Team, while Fujitsu was awarded the prize for Employee Learning Programme of the Year.

## THE IIRSM COMMUNITY

Leading Sustainability Initiative of the Year was awarded to Mitsubishi Electric Middle East, Africa and CIS Co. LLC. Haridas Palangattu Veettil said that, under the leadership of Jorge Manuel Ramos, CEO and Board Member of Mitsubishi Electric, the team had “successfully implemented several innovative initiatives that have strengthened sustainability, operational excellence and workplace safety across our elevator and escalator service operations.

“From the implementation of integrated QHSE digital platforms and mobility applications for field technicians to advanced asset management systems and energy-efficient upgrades, these initiatives reflect a strong organisational commitment towards safer, smarter and more sustainable operations.”

Sponsored by HSI Donesafe, the Leaders in Employee Safety and Wellbeing award went to Ashview Consultants. CEO Paul O’Shea said: “All the hard work and dedication from our staff has been recognised on an international level. It is a brilliant recognition of the work being done across Ashview Consultants to keep safety, wellbeing and people at the centre of how we work. Well done to our full team and our Wellbeing Committee, whose hard work and commitment have helped make this happen. We are very proud of this award.”

Mentor of the Year, Joanna Amanyre, of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP) in Uganda, said: “What an honour! Grateful to all those that have guided me throughout my mentorship journey and helped to make this possible.

“A huge thank you to the IIRSM community and event organisers for your continued support to create thriving spaces. Here’s to lifting each other up and building a culture where we all thrive!”

Hugh Maxwell, one of Joanna’s mentors, said: “Joanna’s journey is a powerful example of what can happen when talent, humility, passion and perseverance come together with a genuine desire to make a difference for others. Keep smashing it and raising the bar for African risk and HSE professionals.”

Winner of the 2026 Presidents’ Commendation award, Karen J Hewitt FIIRSM, Director of Leaderlike Limited and former Chair of the IIRSM Ambassadors Network, said: “Receiving the IIRSM Presidents’ Commendation Award means the world to me, not just as recognition for my own work, but as recognition for the work of the incredible IIRSM Ambassadors and wider IIRSM community. It is a place where everyone is welcome, whatever their role in the safety and risk industry, and diversity of thinking is at the very core.” ♡