



NEEDLEMAKERS' AWARD FOR ADVANCED NEEDLE TECHNOLOGY

Background

The Needlemakers' Award for Advanced Needle Technology is a new initiative of the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers (one of 112 livery companies in the City of London, see www.needlemakers.org.uk). The Needlemakers have a long history of supporting both needlemaking and needle usage, and this initiative widens that support for biotechnology and healthcare innovation.

Our new award aims to support an early-stage project developing medical or bioscience products, technologies or services making use of the innovative and/or advanced use of needles or needle replacements for the benefit of patients and wider society. Full details of the Award Policy can be found on the Needlemakers' Company website.

We will make this award working in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs and its charitable trust, whose Entrepreneurs' Award in Social Innovation (EASI) is a highly successful and established programme and grant mechanism. This partnership with the Entrepreneurs and the EASI programme means that both Companies can benefit from shared resources, knowledge and networks for the purpose of supporting and escalating early-stage innovation.

Award Process

Entrants are invited to complete the application form downloadable here [Needlemakers Award](#) and return it by email to Award.Applications@needlemakers.org.uk by no later than 17 April 2025.

Applications will be assessed – and the winner selected – by a panel of judges, including:

- Dr Tom Bashford, Consultant Anaesthetist & Assistant Professor in Healthcare Systems, Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge

- Professor Teresa Lambe, Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology, Oxford University
- Liveryman Ian Quirk, CEO and Founder of Active Needle Technology Ltd.
- Dr Mark Slack, Chief Medical Officer, and Co-Founder of CMR Surgical
- Liveryman Helen Tomkys, Head of Global Health Security Preparedness, Department of Health & Social Care

Applications will be assessed by the Panel against the criteria set out in the Award Policy.

An initial shortlist of applicants will be selected and invited to present their project to the panel via video call. The Award winner will be announced on or around 27 May 2025 and invited to receive the Award at a Needlemakers event in central London in early July.

The Award winner will benefit from a package of support provided by the Needlemakers in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs, comprising a programme of workshops and mentoring together with access to valuable networks, and a one-off prize of £7,500 payable by the Needlemakers to the applicant organisation.



NEEDLEMAKERS' AWARDS POLICY

Note: This policy document is intended as a guide for the Award Panel and Award Applicants. It is not an exhaustive document, rather it conveys the spirit and principles of the Award, together with some helpful guidance on the mechanics of the application and award cycle.

1. Award objective of The Worshipful Company of Needle-makers (“the Company”)

1.1 Through the Award for Advanced Needle Technology, the Company intends to support an early-stage project developing medical or bio-science products, technologies or services making use of the innovative and/or advanced use of needles or needle replacements for the benefit of patients and wider society.

1.2 By partnering with the Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs (“the Entrepreneurs”), the Company can use the established Entrepreneurs’ Award in Social Innovation (“EASI”) framework and facilities. Both Companies can benefit from shared resources, knowledge and networks, for the purpose of supporting and escalating early-stage innovation.

1.3 A package of expertise and resources will be made available by the Company, in conjunction with the Entrepreneurs, to help the Award winner to develop their operational capacity, make connections, and scale the impact of their work.

2. Priorities and criteria for support

2.1 The intention of the Company is that it will support one award annually.

2.2 Priority will be given to applications that most closely satisfy the objective within the award cycle in which they are made and have the potential for widespread use.

2.3 Priority will further be given to proposals for which the Award represents substantial support.

2.4 Projects must have progressed beyond fundamental research and have potential to involve a translational or commercial impact in due course.

2.5 Applications may be made by individuals or teams within academia or from within early-stage or developing commercial organisations or social enterprises. Charities, non-profits, and public bodies are also eligible to apply.

2.6 Although applications from any geographical area within the UK are eligible for consideration, applicants should have regard to their ability to access mentoring and events in the City of London.

2.7 All applications from previous award winners or from previously unsuccessful applicants will be considered by the Panel on their own merits.

2.8 The Company, in partnership with the Entrepreneurs, will provide the successful applicant organisation with a package of support comprising a programme of workshops and mentoring together with access to valuable networks, along with a one-off award of £7,500 payable by the Company to the applicant organisation. This figure will be reviewed annually.

2.9 The winner will nominate a lead person to become a Freeman of the Company, subject to interview and references.

2.10 The Company may work in partnership with other organisations to fund and administer the award and subsequent support.

3. Award application process

3.1 All applications for the Award should be completed in conjunction with this policy, and the advertised award cycle. They may be made by using the online application form. Alternatively, please email the application to [Award.Applications@needlemakers.org.uk].

3.2 The application form consists of three sections, as follows, and each section should be completed with a maximum word count of 500 words:

- Please describe your project and the health or social problem being addressed, including how it aligns with the award objective. Please include the project's stage of development and evidence generated to date.
- Please describe how your project will benefit individuals and the potential for wider societal use.
- Please state how the award will help you bridge a gap and get you closer to your goal.

3.3 The application form should be accompanied by a CV not exceeding two pages of A4 in length, and a short summary of the project in plain English.

3.4 Applying for and/or winning an EASI award will not preclude applications from applying for and/or winning the Needlemakers Award, and vice versa.

4. Assessment process

4.1 The process will be conducted in accordance with the assessment timeline as published by the Company.

4.2 The Award winner will be selected by a Panel of experts with a clinical, academic or commercial background nominated by the Company.

4.3 Applications will be assessed against the application form criteria as set out in paragraph 3.2 above and having regard to the strength and feasibility of the project.

4.4 The Company will not be obliged to provide an explanation to the applicant should the application be unsuccessful.

5. Monitoring and publication

5.1 The Award will be monitored by the Company. Reasonable conditions may be applied to the Award and progress may be assessed (and instalments paid, if appropriate) against agreed targets. The Company reserves the right to withdraw the Award in part or in whole if targets are missed.

5.2 Award winners should inform the Company of any relevant changes to their circumstances that could impact delivery.

5.3 Reasonable monitoring visits by representatives of the Company may be made during the period of the Award.

5.4 The Company should be accredited in any relevant published articles, papers or other outputs which may result from the Award. A minimum reporting standard is "*X is the 20** winner of the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers Award for Advanced Needle Technology*" but it may be appropriate to include the Company's logo or other relevant details (by prior agreement with the Company).

5.5 The Company should be offered copies of any relevant publicity, articles, papers or other outputs which may result from the Award.