



NEEDLEMAKERS' AWARD FOR ADVANCED NEEDLE TECHNOLOGY

The Award

The Worshipful Company of Needlemakers is one of 113 livery companies in the City of London (www.needlemakers.org.uk) and was founded in 1656.

The **Needlemakers' Award for Advanced Needle Technology** is one of the Company's philanthropic initiatives. It aims to support an early-stage project **developing medical or bioscience products using needles or needle replacements**. It was launched in 2025 in partnership with the Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs and full details of the Award can be found on the Needlemakers' website <https://www.needlemakers.org.uk/industrial-heritage/needlemakers-award>.

What are we looking for?

A start up initiative at an early TRL stage for which the Award would represent substantial benefit. This may originate from a university or hospital innovation hub, but a business or charity is also welcome to apply. The key criteria are innovations which:

1. demonstrably involve needles or needle replacements
2. address a medical challenge which will benefit patients
3. have clear potential for commercial impact
4. will benefit from the Award in getting the product/service to market

What is the Award?

The Award is a package of **business advice and support** comprising:

- **Mentoring and advice** from medical and business experts. The medical experts are from our judging panel. The business experts include specialists drawn from our joint working with the Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs and others. Our Award winner will also be invited to attend workshops on important business skills such as finance, governance and funding provided by the Worshipful Company of Entrepreneurs EASI programme <https://www.entrepreneurscompany.org/easi>
- **A financial grant of £10,000** which must be used to support the project against agreed targets. This might, for example, cover the costs of external advice and applications. The payment plan will be agreed with the winner.
- **Support for the business** through the profile and networks of the Needlemakers Company and Entrepreneurs Company in the City of London and the wide connections of our Liverymen.

The Award winner will be expected to attend mentoring meetings, workshops and Livery events in person and online over 12 months. The winner will be appointed a Freeman of the Needlemakers Company during that time, which may be extended for a small annual subscription.



We hope the Award may help in leveraging other support to progress the initiative further.

"The Advanced Needle Technology Award 2025 really helped our company advance forwards. The Award consisted of not just a monetary value, but also time and expertise for dedicated mentorship. The programme has helped us with all aspects, from specific medical device advice to a fully formulated and critically appraised business plan. We would like to thank all those involved at the Needlemakers and the Entrepreneurs in allowing us to grow and progress due to this Award. We would recommend this to anyone with an idea in needle (or non needle!) technology - from an early start up to mature business. Thank you again - Cascade Medtech (Emily Mills, CEO and Josh Burke, CMO)"

Award entries

This is a two stage process. We invite applicants to submit an email to Award.Applications@needlemakers.org.uk in the first instance by **30 January 2026** to set out:

- **Name of organisation and principals making the submission.** Please include appropriate supporting documentation which may be a note from the parent organisation, company information (if set up), TRL stage and brief CVs not exceeding two pages of A4.
- **Description of the innovation in plain English and comment on why the project meets our criteria 1-4 above** (max 300 words).

A shortlist will then be invited to put forward a detailed submission as shown in the Award Policy and Application Form <https://www.needlemakers.org.uk/industrial-heritage/needlemakers-award> by **16 March 2026** following which selected finalists will present their project via video call to the judging panel. Applications will be assessed – and the winner selected – by a panel of judges. The Award will be presented to the winner at a Needlemakers Livery Dinner in July.

JUDGING PANEL INCLUDES:

- 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
- Professor Thomas Waite, Deputy Chief Medical Officer (England)

Contact

Please address any queries to Award.Applications@needlemakers.org.uk. A representative of the Company will reply by email or telephone.