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NEWS RELEASE

Innomech secures The Queen's Award for Enterprise as export sales soar

GB Innomech (Innomech) - a company specialising in the development of advanced automation systems for the pharmaceutical, medical device and environmental sectors - has been awarded The Queen's Award for Enterprise 2009 in the international trade category on the back of soaring international sales.

76% of the company's total sales in 2008 were overseas, an increase of 69% over 2006, at a time when official statistics show general UK manufacturing dropping at its fastest rate since records began over 40 years ago.

Innomech specialises in automating highly complex and labour-intensive manufacturing, inspection and testing processes in production plants to improve quality, increase throughput and reduce costs. The company works with multiple technologies but has particular expertise in precision powder handling and dispensing, widely used in the pharmaceutical industry as well as many other sectors.

The company's automation specialists not only design, develop and supply breakthrough performance systems across the world but also provide full installation, on-site training, testing and after-sales support. 58% of last year's installations were in the USA; Japan is also a major market; and Innomech has recently started installing systems in India and China.

David Beale, managing director at Innomech said:

"Innomech is a shining example that UK manufacturing and international trade is not as gloomy as many people think. We offer a complete end to end service for all our clients but have also invested heavily in the whole area of validation. As part of our standard process, we use the very detailed GAMP 5 and ASTM 2500 guidelines where appropriate to provide a fully documented validation package showing conclusively that our systems work to specification under the required operating conditions.

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“In 2004 when we moved into our new facilities at The Innovation Centre, we won three major awards in recognition of the environmentally-friendly design of the building and this latest award makes a very worthy addition to the collection.”

The Queen’s Award for Enterprise is the highest award that can be given to any UK business. It recognises a company’s contribution to UK exports but also looks at its role within the local community, environmental impact and the quality of its relationships with suppliers, partners, employees and customers.

Notes to editors:

GAMP and ASTM2500

GAMP 4 (Good Automated Manufacturing Practice) uses Verification and Validation (or the so-called ‘V’ model) which is an established approach routinely used in the development of highly complex, intelligent systems. The left hand side of the ‘V’ defines the project in terms of its specification, requirements and design with the right hand part representing the integration of the various component parts and their verification.

ASTM 2500 is a relatively new standard that differs to the traditional ‘V’ model for the project lifecycle. It is an entirely risk-based process that requires a thorough understanding of the technology and application to properly assess the risks and criticalities before then defining appropriate levels of qualification to these areas.

GAMP 5 for automated systems further emphasises this risk-based methodology and ties in well with ASTM 2500. This new approach, which is already being used by Innomech and some large pharmaceutical companies, is certainly becoming cGMP (current Good Manufacturing Practice) for project execution and is delivering better projects by every measure (time, cost and quality).

A number of companies already employ their own versions of the ‘V’ model but the risk-based approaches of ASTM 2500 and GAMP 5 are much more practical. Innomech is one of the few UK-based automation specialists working with both methodologies to guarantee system performance for its clients.

About GB Innomech

GB Innomech (Innomech) specialises in automating highly complex and labour-intensive manufacturing processes to maximise outputs, improve product quality and boost business performance. The company works with major international manufacturers in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, medical devices, aerospace, automotive and FMCG, as well as earlier-stage businesses looking to bring breakthrough technologies or products to market.

Innomech has a growing market reputation for solving the toughest of manufacturing problems by the early identification and management of risk, often cross-fertilising technologies and techniques from a range of industry sectors. All projects from initial feasibility studies through to building production-scale machines are conducted to high specification pharmaceutical industry standards and are designed to comply with GAMP 5, FDA and other international standards. The company was founded in 1990 and is based at The Innovation Centre in Witchford, north of Cambridge.

For additional information please visit or contact:

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