

Diversity game-changers MSDUK announce Awards Finalists

The 18 finalists for the MSDUK Awards have been announced. From one of the largest consulting firms in the world to start-up entrepreneurs, the MSDUK Awards champion those businesses working hard to make supply chains both inclusive and competitive.



London, United Kingdom Aug 15, 2022 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - Some of the largest and most influential purchasing organisations in the UK, both public and private, will be recognised for their steadfast commitment to inclusive procurement and opening their supply chains. The doors they help open for small and minority-owned businesses and make a lasting impact on these growing businesses. Meanwhile, ethnic minority businesses across the UK will be recognised for innovation, growth, and entrepreneurship.

Talking about being shortlisted as a finalist, Krystle Sands, Supplier Diversity Program Lead, EMEA, Meta said, "At Meta, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are top priorities for our business, and we take our dedication to diversity a step further. Our supplier diversity mission is to help diverse-owned companies do business with Meta, and with the people and communities that Meta connects. We work on building programs to support and expand the diversity of our suppliers and help other companies and organizations understand the impact of and grow their DEI efforts. Being selected as a finalist in the Emerging Corporate Supplier Diversity award is recognition of our team's efforts to make an impact in the UK and around the globe."

Talking about being shortlisted as a finalist, Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones MBE, aka The Black Farmer, said, "Young people in the UK from ethnic minorities often struggle to open the right doors. MSDUK is doing brilliant work to level the playing field in the UK and Europe and, for example, helping to guide young entrepreneurs and to understand how to work with large corporates. But also helps larger corporates develop their own diverse supply chains. This scheme is the first step in bringing much-needed change to improve diversity in supply chains."

Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones MBE, aka The Black Farmer, overcame many obstacles to realise his dream of owning a farm at the age of 40 and now wants young people from diverse backgrounds to consider farming as a career.

Sherry Vaswani, Group Chief Executive Officer, Xalient, and finalist in three categories added, "MSDUK does a first-class job in shining a light on ethnic minority-led businesses that may have something unique to offer given their diversity - innovation for example. Their work in helping open doors for young entrepreneurs and guiding them on how to succeed with large corporates is much needed and brings a whole new approach to improving the diversity in supply chains."

Mayank Shah, Founder & CEO of Minority Supplier Development UK (MSDUK), look back on the progression of MSDUK over the last 16 years and says, "It's great to see how far we have progressed and even more so to see how supplier diversity has now taken centre stage in corporate procurement strategies 2022 has seen over 100 global and British companies join MSDUK and opening up business opportunities for ethnic minority businesses. Supplier diversity programmes help address the issue of economic inequality and encourage entrepreneurship in under-represented communities."

James Lloyd, Procurement Director, CBRE, and finalist in the established corporate supplier diversity programme category said, "At CBRE, we build and maintain strong, diverse supplier relationships for an equitable and inclusive supply chain. These relationships are important in creating winning outcomes for our clients, employees, and shareholders. Furthermore, engaging with diverse partners supports businesses in our community and strengthens our equitable and inclusive supply chain. We are very proud to be selected as a finalist in the Established Corporate Supplier Diversity category of the MSDUK Awards. It is wonderful recognition for our team and the partners we work with up and down the supply chain to deliver these outcomes."

The winner of each award category will be announced at the prestigious MSDUK Business Awards ceremony on the second day of the MSDUK Conference, taking place in London on 8th September 2022. To buy tickets <https://www.msdukconference.co.uk/>

Meet the finalists

You can find out more about the awards and MSDUK at <https://www.msduk.org.uk/news/finalists-announced-msduk-awards-2022>

Entrepreneur of the year

The Black Farmer, Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones Xalient Holdings Ltd, Sherry Vaswani

ISA Support Services Ltd, Sunny Araf

The Glass Company Ltd, Sanmukh Bawa

Business Woman of the Year

Creative Nature, Julianne Ponan Xalient Holdings Ltd, Sherry Vaswani

Nistad Limited, Ada JabaruBrand Xposure UK Ltd T/A BX Merchandise, Sarah Sayed

High Growth Business of the Year

Xalient Holdings Ltd, Sherry Vaswani

BAP Pharma Ltd, Daniel De Brett

ZR Consultants Ltd (ZRC), Zeshan Raja

Excellence in Emerging Corporate Supplier Diversity Programme

Meta Platforms (Previously known as Facebook) Unilever UK Ltd

Diageo

Excellence in Established Corporate Supplier Diversity Programme

CBRE

EY

Accenture

Cummins Ltd

MSDUK is proud to champion the best of British EMBs and work with progressive global corporations that understand the value of supply chain inclusion and diversity.

The largest Supplier Diversity Conference in the UK & Europe showcases the best of Supplier Diversity Programmes and Ethnic Minority Businesses.

#MSDUK #Diversity #D&I #DandI #diversityandinclusion #SupplyChain #EMBs #inclusiveprocurement
#Accenture #Unilever #Barclays #EY #Diageo #BMS #SonyPictures #WPP #GSK #AgileOne #Fidelity
#Co-Op #META #Facebook #BlackFarmer #Xalient

- MSDUK Conference & Awards takes place from the 7th to 9th September 2022
- The MSDUK Awards will be presented by Sir Lenny Henry

For images, interviews, and media requests, please contact Claire on 07870 808 166 or email claire@primepr.co.uk

About MSDUK

MSDUK is the UK's premier non-for-profit membership organisation championing diversity and inclusion in public and private sector supply chains. Since its inception in 2006, the organisation has worked with and supported over 3000 ethnic minority businesses and 120 Fortune 500 firms, generating more than £735m worth of business for ethnic minority businesses.

We passionately believe that only through a diverse supply chain can industry truly meet the demands of the growing multicultural UK population whilst also improving **business performance, increasing innovation, and driving growth.**

Join us in our mission to create a more inclusive Britain – head to <https://www.msduk.org.uk/> to find out more about our work and how you can be part of it or connect with us on social media:

Twitter @MSD_UK LinkedIn MSDUK Facebook @MSDUKNEWS Instagram MSDUK_NEWS



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