

CAT

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Pump plans

Going with the flow at a former QH plant

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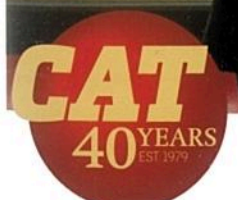
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BANNER PURRS INTO TOP SPOT

EXCLUSIVE!

Andy Hamilton
speaks about
ECP's future

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AWARDS 2019
automechanika
BIRMINGHAM

CAT AWARDS 2019
FIND OUT THE STORIES
BEHIND THE WINNERS

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TALKING MONEY
PRIVATE EQUITY:
FRIEND OR FOE?

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Line up! All the day's winners

The Aftermarket's Got Talent

The CAT Awards 2019 kick off. With 120 attending, the aftermarket clearly had something to prove

The Lowry Hotel in Manchester wasn't a bad place for celebrity-spotting in February, thanks to the cast and hopefuls of Britain's Got Talent staying in the hotel (and filling the adjacent bar) while we were.

For hosting the CAT Awards, it was one very specific area of Britain's talent that we wanted to celebrate - and with the help of a cross section of the UK aftermarket we did just that.

With the stage decorated in our 40th anniversary logo and the room set and ready, we wanted this to be a really special

event for all of the attendees.

We started on a sombre note, as it was right to pay tribute to some of the people we had lost over the past year. Bob Davies, Aftermarket Section Manager at SMMT was well known and respected by all, Alec Morgan of Banner Batteries was a popular and jovial figure in the aftermarket and closer to home for us at Haymarket, our former colleague, the broadcaster and journalist Henry Hope-Frost, who died just a month after hosting the CAT Awards in 2018.

The mood was lifted when the Awards began following lunch.

This year's new host was radio presenter and former CAT staff reporter James Cannon, who added a jocular touch to proceedings before the trophies were handed out. He followed the ceremony with a selection of bloopers from radio stations around the world, which made the crowd chortle.

As always, the event was followed by networking and the party continued for many of the guests in central Manchester through the night. Read on to find out who won which Award, and the stories behind them.





Drinks and canapés to start...



...a good deal of networking...



...and lots of laughs all round

Supplier of the Year Award: Banner Batteries

CAT STATS

NAME Banner GmbH
FOUNDER Artur Bawart
CEO(S) Andreas and Thomas Bawart
EST 1837
STAFF 810
HQ Linz, Austria
WEB Bannerbatterien.com

Sponsored by



"Founded in Austria in the 1930s, Banner was – and still remains – a family-run firm"

The title of Supplier of the Year is perhaps the most contested of all, and this year was no exception. With the gap between the shortlisted nominees tight for the weeks that voting was open, it wasn't clear who would win until the moment the poll closed.

When the votes were counted, however, Banner Batteries came out on top, and the trophy was collected by Country Manager Lee Quinney at the CAT Awards.

Founded in Austria in the 1930s, Banner Batteries was – and remains – a family firm. With its production facilities in Linz-Leonding, Banner possesses one of the most modern and environmentally-friendly battery plants in Europe.

While you may associate the brand with the aftermarket,

Banner supplies many VMs with OE batteries, including BMW, VW, Audi, Porsche, Mercedes, Rolls-Royce, SEAT, Aston Martin, Suzuki, Volvo, and heavy equipment manufacturer Liebherr to name but a few.

Another piece of corporate trivia involves the firm's logo. Despite references to bulls in the firm's product names – 'Running Bull', 'Uni Bull' etc – the animal depicted is actually an Italian buffalo.

One of the firm's most distinctive products for many years was the Uni Bull, a universal-fit range for the aftermarket that reduced the quantity of parts a distributor needed to hold because the units had both round and Ford-type connectors.

RUNNERS UP

- Noco
- Denso