

Chris Smith, Pendle Engineering

Winner of The Sub36 Award 2017

Based in Nelson

Why did you enter Sub36 Awards 2017?

I'm proud to be part of a thriving community of younger men and women in business. It's fantastic to help tackle the 'pale, male and stale' myth that can sometimes surround business leadership, and to rub shoulders with other people who share what sometimes can feel like a "burden of youth".

Leadership can be a lonely job and getting the odd bit of recognition from your peers can work wonders. I'd previously heard good things about Sub36 and decided that I'd like to take part.

To be able to describe your business as 'award-winning' is great. If your team know you are entering awards, it can really help bring everyone together.

The exposure your organisation receives by being part of the awards is great - you never know who's watching and it can easily lead on to significant business wins.

How did you find the entry and judging process?

Entry was a doddle. What I like about entering awards is the forced reflection - you have to consider the possibility that you've done a lot of good things over the past 12 months. Judging was an exciting process, the judges themselves were very supportive and clearly wanted the interviews to go well as much as the applicants did. In between interviews I was able to chat with the other finalists which was a nice bonus.

What was it like to win on the night?

The evening was a bit of a rollercoaster for me if I'm honest. I was proud to have been a finalist in two categories and to hear my name called as winner of the editor's choice award - 'The Sub36 Award' was incredible. I didn't even know the award existed as it wasn't a judged category!

How have you benefitted from winning the award?

The award win was a huge confidence boost for me.

Do you have any words of advice for those thinking of entering this year?

The application process alone is a worthwhile experience. To be interviewed is icing on the cake. To be a finalist is the cherry on top. To win an award is having a massive firework splodged in the cake and then set off!

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