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Supply Chain Awards 2024: Ludwig Meister and Cellumation have won

Ludwig Meister is the winner of the Supply Chain Management Award 2024. Cellumation has been honoured with the Smart Solution Award 2024.

Munich, November 14, 2024. The winners of the Supply Chain Awards 2024 competition have been announced. The winner of the Supply Chain Management Award 2024 is the technical retailer Ludwig Meister. The Supply Chain Management Award was presented for the 19th time this year by LOGISTIK HEUTE, Strategy& and PwC. The Smart Solution Award - presented for the seventh time this year - went to Cellumation, a provider of automation solutions for intralogistics. The Awards were presented on 12 November in Frankfurt am Main in front of around 100 participants at the awards ceremony.

The final day of the Supply Chain Awards 2024 was held under the motto 'Adapt Supply Chains to meet Political, Technological and Environmental Shifts'. Participants were offered interesting keynotes, an exciting panel discussion, workshop sessions on supply chain management, numerous networking opportunities and the finalist pitches in which the audience was able to judge the presentations of the four companies. As in previous years, the participants' votes were included in the judges' assessment.

The Supply Chain Management Award recognises outstanding SCM concepts that have been developed, implemented and are groundbreaking for other companies. The aim is to optimise the supply chain, reduce costs, increase transparency or improve collaboration between individual teams.

The Smart Solution Award is presented for particularly innovative concepts that are still at an early stage of implementation. This award recognises solutions that have the potential to fundamentally change traditional value chains in the future.

After an audit, the jury, consisting of supply chain practitioners, scientists, consultants and representatives of the trade media, had to decide between these finalists: Bosch Mobility Aftermarket, Ludwig Meister, Otto Fuchs and Würth Industrie Service competed in the final of the Supply Chain Management Award. Cellumation, Knapp, the Körber Business Area Supply Chain and Themis by Commerzbank competed in the final round of the Smart Solution Award.

Supply Chain Management Award 2024: Winner Ludwig Meister

Not least with its new 'Never Out of Stock' solution, based on the consistent use of all digital optimisation steps developed over the years, the technical distributor Ludwig Meister demonstrated the extent to which digital transformation and forward-looking process optimisation contribute to the success of modern supply chains. Winning the Supply Chain Management Award 2024 thus underlines the many years of continuous development of a resilient and efficient supply chain, which is to be continuously improved in the future in order to reliably offer customers maximum availability and flexibility.

Ludwig Meister's 'Never Out of Stock' solution combines real-time data analyses with automated procurement processes to identify material availability at an early stage and avoid bottlenecks. According to the technical retailer, this approach can reduce stock levels by up to 25 per cent and shorten lead times by up to 30 per cent, enabling Ludwig Meister's customers to plan more effectively and efficiently. The solution is characterised by a high level of automation and the connection of over 100 suppliers.

Max Meister, Managing Director of Ludwig Meister, commented enthusiastically: 'It is a great honour to be recognised first as a finalist and then as a winner over great competition by the Supply Chain Management Award 2024. This award is not only a recognition of the outstanding work of our entire team, but also a confirmation of our continuous commitment to the further development of our supply chain strategy. We started working on a seamless, reliable, digitally supported supply chain for our customers just over ten years ago, and this award is both an incentive and motivation to continue on this path.' He sees winning the Supply Chain Management Award 2024 as 'the greatest praise for the hard work of all my colleagues,' says Max Meister.

Since its foundation in Dachau in 1939, Ludwig Meister has established itself as a trustworthy partner in the industry. With over 300 employees and a broad portfolio of products and services in areas such as rolling bearings, linear technology and drive technology, the company stands for quality and innovative strength. The 'Never Out of Stock' solution is part of the company's vision to make a significant contribution to the profitability and efficiency of its customers through digitalisation and automation.

Guillaume Popiol, Vice President Supply Chain Planning at last year's winner Philip Morris International, congratulated the winner. Jury member Stefan Schrauf, Global Supply Chain and EMEA Operations Lead, PwC Management Consulting, explained the jury's decision: 'Ludwig Meister finds the answers in the data and in the processes to serve its customers and, as a medium-sized company, has set up an end-to-end supply chain solution in an exemplary manner.'

Smart Solution Award 2024: Winner Cellumation

Many conveyor systems are even in the modern logistics world prone to disruptions, demand significant space, and offer limited scalability or adaptability to new requirements. To address this challenge, the Cellumation team has developed a software-controlled material flow solution. At the heart of the solution is the celluveyor – a hexagonal cell with three omnidirectional, independently driven wheels. By combining multiple celluveyor cells, a surface is formed on which objects can be flexibly moved. A vision system and AI-supported software ensure optimal material flow through precise control of the individual cells.

The technology can be applied for complex transportation tasks: palletizing and depalletizing, sorting, aligning and singulating transport goods, merging material flows, diverting objects, and many more. Main advantages of the solution include up to 95 per cent reduction of space requirements, high throughput, low energy costs, and easy maintenance. Additionally, the solution can be quickly integrated into existing material flow systems and offers the flexibility to switch between different use cases through via software updates.

Alvaro Llobet, Head of Product at Finboot, the winner of the Smart Solution Award 2023, gave the laudatory speech for Cellumation.

Dr Hendrik Thamer, CEO & Co-Founder of Cellumation, was delighted to win the Smart Solution Award 2024: "It's always a step into the unknown when developing and establishing a new technology in the market. All the more, we are thrilled to receive the Smart Solution award – a recognition that rewards bold pioneers. Innovation can serve as a beacon, inspiring others and lighting the way forward."

Cellumation GmbH, which now has more than 65 employees, was founded in 2017 to (further) develop and commercialise the celluveyor technology developed and patented by the founders. Since 2019, more than 120 systems have been commissioned by over 30 customers worldwide. With several prominent customers already in its portfolio, the company aims to continue its international expansion in the coming years.

Stefan Schrauf, Global Supply Chain and EMEA Operations Lead, PwC Management Consulting: 'The final day of the Supply Chain Awards 2024 showed how valuable the dialogue in the Supply Chain Awards community is. All finalists gave excellent presentations and can be very proud of what they have achieved. Congratulations to the winners Ludwig Meister and Cellumation!'

'The final day of the Supply Chain Awards, which this year was held under the motto 'Adapt Supply Chains to meet Political, Technological and Environmental Shifts', is a platform for dialogue within the Supply Chain Awards community. The Supply Chain Awards will be presented again in 2025. We are already looking forward to numerous forward-looking solution concepts from the applicants and to once again offering the community a meeting place for in-depth professional dialogue,' says jury member Matthias Pieringer, Editor-in-Chief of LOGISTIK HEUTE.

The Supply Chain Awards 2025 will be presented on 11 November 2025 in Frankfurt.

Further information on the Supply Chain Awards can be found at: <https://supply-chain-awards.com>

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Attachment: The Smart Solution Award 2024 (left) went to Cellumation. Ludwig Meister was honoured with the Supply Chain Management Award 2024 (Image credit: Mario Andrey)

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LOGISTIK HEUTE

The trade magazine LOGISTIK HEUTE addresses managers in industry, trade and the service sector who are responsible for logistics processes in the company. An editorial team and specialist authors from science and practice provide up-to-date information on innovative logistics concepts, new products, ideas and trends in all areas of the supply chain. Detailed market overviews and company reports complete the range of logistics topics month after month. Procurement, production, distribution and disposal - logistics is involved everywhere. That's why LOGISTIK HEUTE, the logistics magazine for decision-makers in industry, trade and the service sector, refers consequently to the entire supply chain and represents thus an indispensable source of information.

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