



ve  
Space  
CASE STUDY



**EQUANS**

Excellence Awards

# OVERVIEW

Energy and services provider, EQUANS (formally known as engie) is one of the UK's largest employers with 20,000 staff.

EQUANS hosts an Awards Dinner annually to celebrate their award winners and important people within the business and 2022 was the fourth year that we had successfully managed this event.

The Awards Dinner is a chance for front-line staff to enjoy an evening of entertainment and recognition and an opportunity for Board members to show employees their appreciation.

Here's our journey with EQUANS from our first event with them in 2017...

Awards Dinner

**2017 - 2022**

Multiple locations  
across the UK

**Approx.**

250 delegates

# Excellence Awards 2017

180 delegates

Manchester Town  
Hall



## DINNER SERVICE

Guests were called into dinner in the spectacular Great Hall, which was elegantly dressed with candelabras and a moving EQUANS logo projected onto the walls.



## EVENING AGENDA

Two speeches and two awards occurred before the starter course. A further two speeches and two more awards took place before the main course. The Innovation Award was handed out after dessert, while the final three awards, including Team of the Year, were presented after coffee had been served.



## AFTER PARTY

EQUANS UK Chief Executive Wilfred Petrie delivered a closing speech before guests were invited to head next door where jazz band, Snazzy Swing kept the party going until the bar closed at midnight.

**"I'm always confident that veSpace will deliver an exceptional event in a venue that matches my brief and this was no different. Manchester Town Hall is a beautiful location and fitting for such a prestigious evening. The whole event ran seamlessly thanks to the onsite team."**

Alex Bruckshaw - Experience Manager (Design)

# Excellence Awards 2019

180 delegates

Science and  
Industry Museum,  
Manchester



## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

We were asked to work with EQUANS to project manage the entire event, oversee set up and the live event and deliver end-to-end management of event logistics,



## SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT

We brought in our Joint Venture Partners and additional suppliers, who all offer something different and unique that helped bring this event to life. During the lead-up to the event, we worked closely with each of these suppliers to ensure objectives were met



## VENUE FINDING

EQUANS wanted to hold the Excellence Awards in a quirky venue that they could really take over and make truly 'EQUANS'. With this in mind, we carried out site inspections to the Royal Armouries Leeds, Victoria Warehouse and the Imperial War Museum North before deciding on the Science and Industry Museum in Manchester.

## CHALLENGE

Although a fabulous venue to work at, with the ability to really create something unique, it also proved to be a challenge. The Science and Industry Museum is a working museum and open to the public. This meant we could only access the site from 17.15 on the day of the event, giving us 1 hour to set up the pre-dinner drinks and 2 hours for the gala dinner. Fortunately it was a challenge we were fully aware of and prepared for accordingly with over 20 production crew onsite to meet our tight deadlines and get the job done.

# Excellence Awards 2020

220 delegates

Boiler Shop and  
Crowne Plaza  
Stephenson Quarter,  
Newcastle



## ACCOMODATION

The event accommodation was chosen specifically within walking distance of the venue to reduce transfer emissions and to encourage guests don't use any form of transport.



## FUNDING

Providing donations and funding to a local project, The People's Kitchen, who provide food, friendship and supplies to the homeless and disadvantaged people in the local areas. We had donation bowls available throughout the night, with the offer of being matched by EQUANS themselves.



## SUSTAINABILITY

Minimal printing and collateral was organised for the night, we utilized digital screening where possible, and where printing was required we ensured we printed on recycled paper. Also, we did not put dates on banners and reusable items, ensuring they can be used again at future awards and events across the business

## CHALLENGE

We were appointed to organise and coordinate the event in line with the company focus of zero carbon impact and sustainability. This was successfully achieved through venue choices, travel options and contributions to local projects both during and post event, whilst ensuring seamless logistics.

# Excellence Awards 2022

250 delegates

Kimpton Clocktower  
Hotel, Manchester



## VENUE FINDING

For this event we found suitable venues for the EQUANS Awards Excellence Dinner. We were faced with some challenges in this aspect, with location and dates changing. However, we successfully found a venue that worked well.



## SUPPLIER MANAGEMENT

We kept in close contact with suppliers during this event. We contracted Insight for the production, the on-site florist at the hotel for bouquets and decoration, a local DJ, and photographer. All of these elements created the perfect atmosphere for the Excellence Awards.



## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

We managed the full event, as we have the past three events. We found suitable venues for the award dinner, organised schedules, liaised with suppliers.

## CHALLENGE

At the beginning of the venue finding process, we faced some hurdles as there were a lot of differing opinions. To suit the client's needs, we proposed five different venue choices. We began looking at London and Manchester as per the client's request, before changing their mind about the dates and considering Birmingham as a destination. We kept in close contact with EQUANS during this process and suggested the Kimpton Clocktower Hotel in Manchester, which worked out very successfully. This was the first time they have held the awards in a hotel and EQUANS will continue to use the hotel in the future.





The EQUANS Excellence Awards are an important date in our business calendar, an opportunity to reward our employees for their continued hard work and dedication and we want the events to reflect this important recognition.

Each year, the team at veSpace go above and beyond to deliver on this objective, helping us to deliver memorable events. Our relationship continues to go from strength-to-strength, and we're excited to be working on future events with them.

Vicky Jones

– Employee Experience Manager



veSpace absolutely nail the planning and delivery of our awards! Sustainability and minimising our organisation's impact on the planet are such an important part of our business and for me. So, considering the challenges we gave our Event Manager with the sustainability element, especially in 2020, I'm astounded by what the team delivered for us - the travel, the venue, the local project - The People's Kitchen, and donating the fresh flower arrangements to a local care home - they thought of everything and managed it seamlessly. And that's not to mention how these events run on the night - truly fitting employee recognition Excellence Awards that everyone remembers.

Alex Bruckshaw

- Experience Manager (Design)





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