

# Framatome selects Professor Robert Ainsworth winner of UK Excellence in Nuclear Reactor Science Award

**March 11, 2022** – Framatome recently selected Professor Robert Anthony Ainsworth, Professor of Structural Integrity at the University of Manchester, as the 2021 recipient of its prestigious Framatome Excellence in Nuclear Reactor Science in the UK Award. In a ceremony held at the French Ambassador's Residence in London, Professor Ainsworth was recognized for his wealth of experience in nuclear reactor science, breadth of positions held in both the academic and private sectors and commitment to the general advancement of nuclear reactor science at large.

"The French Embassy is proud to host the ceremony for the second Framatome Excellence in Nuclear Reactor Science in the UK Award, highlighting scientific work of great importance for the nuclear industry as a whole," said Pierre-Yves Cordier, Nuclear Adviser, French Embassy. "The establishment of this award, given by a French industrial group to a British scientist, exemplifies the strengthening of relations between our two countries in the field of nuclear energy, which is important alongside renewables in order to succeed in the drive towards net zero."

"Partnering with universities and research institutions in the UK creates opportunities for Framatome in the field of nuclear energy innovations that directly benefit our industry and customers in the UK and around the world," said Bernard Fontana, CEO of Framatome. "We created this award to recognize research leaders helping move our industry forward, and Professor Ainsworth work represents the best British nuclear reactor science has to offer. We congratulate Professor Ainsworth for his contribution to the nuclear energy industry."

Professor Ainsworth's career has produced, among other achievements, foundational work in the development of structural integrity assessment procedures; many of which are part of the current UK nuclear reactor standards for establishing structural integrity of nuclear reactor components. He holds the special distinction of creating defect and high temperature assessment procedures that are deployed globally along with their underlying methods. While working in a senior industry management position at British Energy, Professor Ainsworth fostered research alliances with four major UK universities.

The Framatome Excellence in Nuclear Reactor Science in the UK Award is open to senior engineers and university professors who have made significant R&D contributions in the field of nuclear reactors and fuel.

Please refer to the [French Embassy Flickr account](#) for event photographs.

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Framatome  
Tour AREVA  
1 Place Jean Millier  
92400 COURBEVOIE  
France

[www.framatome.com](http://www.framatome.com)

## CONTACT

Press  
[press@framatome.com](mailto:press@framatome.com)



(French Embassy in UK): Pierre-Yves Cordier, Counselor Nuclear; Guillaume Lacroix, First Counselor; (University of Manchester): Professor Ainsworth; (Framatome): Bernard Fontana, CEO ; Marc Duret, Managing Director, UK.

## About Framatome

Framatome is an international leader in nuclear energy recognized for its innovative solutions and value added technologies for the global nuclear fleet. With worldwide expertise and a proven track record for reliability and performance, the company designs, services and installs components, fuel, and instrumentation and control systems for nuclear power plants. Its more than 14,000 employees work every day to help Framatome's customers supply ever cleaner, safer and more economical low-carbon energy. Visit us at: [www.framatome.com](http://www.framatome.com), and follow us on Twitter: [@Framatome](https://twitter.com/Framatome) and LinkedIn: [Framatome](https://www.linkedin.com/company/framatome). Framatome is owned by the EDF Group (75.5%), Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI – 19.5%) and Assystem (5%).

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Tour AREVA  
1 Place Jean Millier  
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France

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## CONTACT

Press  
[press@framatome.com](mailto:press@framatome.com)