



## Recognising Industry Achievements

*With 10 categories and over 45 member entries, there was considerable interest in the CSTA Awards ceremony which took place at the end of the CSTA Manchester Meeting.*

Our thanks to our panel of judges:

- Katie Webb, Director, Molokini Marketing,
- Doug Owen, Secretary-General, BIC,
- Rob Fisher, Director of Intermodal Europe

**The results were as follows:**

**Best Operator of Multiple Container Self-Storage Sites - U-Hold-The-Key**

**Outstanding Staff Member - Blue Bear Storage – Danny Meredith**

**Best Operator of a Single Container Self-Storage Facility - Blue Self Storage**

**Safety Innovation – Domino Clamps**

**Technology Innovation – DSOC**

**Sustainability – Sheeplands**

**Charitable Initiatives - Space Program**

**Website - Keepsafe**

**Social Media - Explorage.com**

**Best/Most Original Photo - Touax**

## *Award Category*

# **Best Operator of Multiple Container Self-Storage Sites**

*Criteria: Consistency, Site Management, Innovation*

## **Winner:**

### **U-Hold-The-Key**

*Ryan Tempest, U-Hold-the-Key, collects the Award for Best Operator, Multiple Container Self-Storage Sites*



## **About the Winner**

U Hold the Key (UHTK) self-storage has a 22-year operating history; it is one of the first container self-storage brands in the UK. Service, innovation, and quality are core values. Its 12 sites are operated from their Durham HQ. Each site has unrestricted 24/7 access, 24/7 customer service.

UHTK has added payment and key returns buttons and increased transparency of price, size, and location information and enhanced customer service by communicating our value through social media, and continuously training 24/7 customer service resources.

UHTK has brought derelict sites back to life, improving our community. UHTK has 16 long term employees, offers meaningful and flexible employment, and trains graduates. Customers review UHTK as 4.75 of 5 stars across 297 reviews.

## **Highly Commended:**

**Blue Bear Storage**

**Space Program**

## *Award Category*

# **Outstanding Staff Member**

*Criteria: Customer Service, Leadership, Problem Solving*

## **Winner:**

## **Blue Bear Storage – Danny Meredith**

*Danny Meredith, Blue Bear Storage – winner of the Outstanding Staff Members Award*

### **About the Winner**

Danny Meredith, our exceptional Operations Manager at Blue Bear Self Storage, is a true standout among industry professionals and deserves recognition as the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year at the Container Self Storage Awards.

His exceptional management skills have helped create a cohesive and high-performing team, resulting in improved operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Danny's remarkable achievements and invaluable contributions have propelled our business to new heights. He demonstrates an exceptional level of skill, efficiency, and leadership.

### **Highly Commended:**

**Explorage.com – Jacqui Jeffries**

**Space Program – Crystal Salterwhite-Hurley**

**U-Hold-the-Key – Ryan Tempest**

**Keepsafe – Ian Dougal**



*Award Category*

# **Best Operator of a Single Container Self-Storage Facility**

*Criteria: Site Management, Customer Service, Innovation*

**Winner:**

**Blue Self Storage**

## **About the Winner**

Blue self-storage has grown into a facility of 803 containers with 104,416 lettable sq.ft.

Along with increasing business by 17% over the past 12 months, the business has maintained an excellent occupancy level which currently stands at 95%.

As of April 2023, we are ranked first on the self-storage category within Trustpilot, with an average five stars across 794 reviews. We are also averaging 4.9 stars on Google Reviews, with 396 reviews agreeing that we provide an excellent service.

**Highly Commended:**

**Sheeplands**

*Award Category*

## **Safety Innovation**

*Criteria: Safety, Security, Innovation*

**Winner:**

## **Domino Clamps**

*Sanjay Bhandal, Domino Clamps, collects the Safety Innovation Award*



### **About the Winner**

Domino Clamps came to market in early 2020, and provides versatile attachment devices for shipping containers, allowing the container ISO corner fittings to be used as a fixing point for a wide range of structures and accessories such as CCTV cameras, floodlights and safety signage

## *Award Category*

# Technology Innovation

*Criteria: Technological Impact, Innovation, Practicality*

**Winner:  
DSOC**

*Ant Hebblethwaite, DSOC,  
collects the Technology  
Innovation Award*



## **About the Winner**

DSOC (Doncaster Security Operations Centre) is a state-of-the-art security monitoring company established in 2020 in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. <https://www.dsoc.uk>

DSOC systems have successfully reduced both staff and security callouts, prevented and detected criminal activity and provided excellent customer service to our customers 24/7. DSOC systems are used by more than 300 live sites.

We monitor and understand all methods of access control. These systems are an integral part of any self-storage security strategy. It integrates with your property management system to ensure that only paying customers can access the property and their units. Our alarm and video receiving platform is integrated with all leading access control solutions within Self Storage.

## **Highly Commended:**

**Stora**

**Explorage.com**

## ***Award Category***

# **Sustainability**

***Criteria: Environmental Impact, Innovation, Practicality***

**Winner:**

## **Sheeplands**

### **About the Winner**

Sheeplands owner and CEO, Mark Bennett lives on site in the farmhouse and is always available if anyone needs extra help. We find this also gives our customers extra peace of mind when they are taking storage out with us.

The site is carbon negative. All of the electricity used to power our storage rooms, units and commercial space is created via our solar panels, which are floating on our reservoir, ground mounted and roof mounted on our containers.

Heating for our residential properties, our commercial units and our HQ is created by our Biomass boilers of which we have two. One 200kw and one 70kw ETA-Hack Biomass boilers, both have generated 200,000kw and 70,000kw in the past year.

We installed Europe's FIRST EVER commercial floating solar system capable of generating 200,000 kw hours per year.



***Europe's first commercial floating solar system on our reservoir***



***We have a 100kw roof mounted solar system (top of containers), which has generated 100,000 kw hours per year We also have a 50kw ground mounted system (pictured) which has also generated 50,000kw hrs.***

**Highly Commended:**

**Flowbox**

## **Award Category**

# **Charitable Initiatives**

**Criteria: Community Impact, Charitable Contribution, Innovation**

**Winner:**

## **Space Program**



***Space Program were the winners of the Charitable Initiative Award***



***The Space Program selected Gympanzees as their Charity of the Year. Gympanzees is a Bristol-based charity that provides support to children and young adults with disabilities and their families. The team have actively participated in events including golf days, 3 Peaks Challenge, Bath Half Marathon, wine tasting, and even a Skydive. They have organised a sponsored leg-shave, coffee mornings, Butler for a Day, a quiz night and are currently planning a Charity Gig. They have raised nearly £3,500. The company has pledged to match all funds raised, doubling the total.***

## **Highly Commended:**

**Blue Bear**

**Keepsafe**



## *Award Category*

# **Website**

*Criteria: Design, User Experience, Content*

## **Winner:**

# **Keepsafe**

### **About the Winner**

Keepsafe storage centres maintains a top line presence on google, (we have recently increased our pay per click to ensure we remain at the top of the Google search engine results page). The clear menu structure gives customers the ability to navigate between pages quickly and efficiently. There are good quality images and a video for each Keepsafe Storage Centre, showing an aerial view of the sites and the location within the surrounding areas.

The Keepsafe website allows customers to get an instant online quote explaining the features and benefits of using our site. Customers can also amend their account details, verify their ID, reserve storage units and reserve a free move-in van.

### **Highly Commended:**

**Blue Bear**

**U-Hold-the-Key**

## ***Award Category***

# **Social Media**

***Criteria: Engagement, Content, Innovation***

## **Winner:**

**Explorage.com**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPVBn2S2fqs>



***Anna Roberts collects the “Social Media” Award***

## **About the Winner**

At Explorage.com we are on a mission to make life easier for everyone. We post to raise awareness and understanding about self-storage. We share posts that people can relate to, stories about our team, updates on our network and useful tips for customers.

Self-storage is often a demand led requirement, but the business of building industry and market awareness,

brand awareness, of sharing with customers the value that self-storage is essential to a sustainable business.

## **Highly Commended:**

**Blue Bear**

**Domino Clamps**

**Keepsafe**

**Award Category**

## **Best/Most Original Photo**

**Criteria: Skill, Relevance, Creativity**

## **Winner**

## **Touax**

**Mikkel Falsig collects the Best/Most Original Photo Award...**



**...with the photo of the Touax 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Birthday Cake**

This photo is very original as it's a great new kind of container made only once for a special occasion! .... The celebration of our 40 years Anniversary in Business. Everybody at the trade fair wanted a picture with it and at the end we managed to eat it, it was as delicious as it looked amazing.

**Highly Commended:**

**Blue Bear**

**U-Hold-the-Key**