

## **Matthew McDonald Is the IPMA Project Manager of the Year at Level C**

Matthew McDonald from Siemens Gamesa has been named IPMA Certified Project Manager of the Year at Level C.

The award is based on an evaluation of all Level C certified project managers in 2025 conducted by the IPMA Certification Board Denmark. To be considered for the Project Manager of the Year award, candidates must not only demonstrate their professional competencies through the projects they have managed during the certification process, but also show an ability to reflect on and learn from their experiences. Matthew McDonald has demonstrated exactly these qualities, and we would like to extend our sincere congratulations to him on being named Project Manager of the Year.

### **Recognised for His Achievement from Vejle to Glasgow**

At IPMA, it is a long-standing tradition to surprise the winners of the Project Manager of the Year awards in person. Diplomas, flowers, and awards are presented while the candidate is celebrated in front of colleagues and peers.

In a slightly unconventional manner – yet very much reflecting how project management is increasingly carried out across borders and digital platforms – Matthew was celebrated via a Teams connection between Siemens Gamesas offices in Vejle and his current workplace in Glasgow. There, he works on the delivery of large offshore wind projects.

Despite a busy schedule and many responsibilities, Matthew, who proudly received the award, was pleased to participate in an interview in which he shares his thoughts on the project management profession, as well as the challenges and opportunities that shape his work.

### **Technical Expertise and People Skills Go Hand in Hand**

In recent years, Matthew's focus has increasingly shifted towards internal projects, where he works on developing and implementing processes, tools, and systems that support the business.

These are projects characterised by high complexity and a large number of stakeholders, he explains, where success depends not only on delivering the technical solution but also on understanding stakeholder needs, creating alignment, and managing differing interests throughout the project.

Technical expertise and people skills go hand in hand, he emphasises. This is also one of the reasons why he chose IPMA certification, which, in his view, encompasses both:

- For me personally, strong project management is about communication and trust. It is people who drive projects forward, and therefore relationships must work well. It is important

to have strong domain knowledge and understand the technical content of the projects. At the same time, however, the importance of soft skills should not be underestimated – the ability to communicate clearly and build trust is absolutely essential.

He sees the need for interpersonal and social competencies as particularly important in connection with his current responsibilities, where the development and implementation of new processes and tools involve many different stakeholders – often with different goals, priorities, and ways of working.

According to Matthew, these types of projects require clear communication, proactive conflict resolution, and, naturally, a solid professional foundation when competing interests need to be brought together within a project.

### **Read More About the Project Managers of the Year 2025**

In addition to Matthew McDonald, Pernille Bach Bassiouni from DSB was also nominated for the Project Manager of the Year award at Level C. Congratulations to both candidates on their outstanding achievements.

You can read more about the winners and nominees at the other certification levels on our website under *Project Manager of the Year*, where you will also find articles about this year's winners at Levels B and D.

[IPMA Managers of the year 2025](#)