

LEADER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY



Winner

David Carr

David Carr graduated from the University of Surrey with a BSc (Hons) degree in Economics and, after qualifying as a Chartered Accountant, he joined the Bouygues Group back in 1996. In the eighteen years since he has helped build the group's Energies & Services division into a half-a-billion-pound business employing over 2,500 people across the UK.

Former group chair Bruno Bodin describes David as a man of "great energy, drive, focus and determination", and one who has supported the growth of FM services in the UK and overseas in a variety of roles at the company.

These have included positions in waste management through to building services. He was also appointed financial director of the FM business in 2001 before becoming chief operating officer en route to being appointed managing director in 2009. During his time he has also led the company's development of its FM presence in the Middle East and Canada. In January 2016, David was appointed chief executive of Bouygues Energies & Services UK, in which role he heads up the FM, M&E contracting, infrastructure and energy businesses in the UK. David's tenure has seen Bouygues Energies & Services enjoy one of the highest retention rates of staff and clients in the industry.

Outside of Bouygues, David has also been a board director and chairman of the Business Services Association, an organisation comprising leading companies operating across the private and public sector whose combined UK turnover tops £30billion with a UK workforce of 500,000.

In this role David has been at the forefront of discussion about FM's future, bringing together the views of leaders within the sector in order to help the BSA present a consistent voice to Government at a time when the role of outsourcing is under close scrutiny.

The nurturing and maintenance of supplier relationships is a recurring theme in David's career. He has always seen suppliers as 'part of the team', being frequently commended for making them feel as such, whatever their size and contribution.

In this post-Carillion landscape, David is at pains to emphasise the importance of avoiding low-cost and thus higher risk contract procurement. He sees the helping of government to better understand the risks associated with a drive for low-cost solutions as a priority, emphasising the potential of sustained dialogue with the Crown Commercial Service to share knowledge, work collaboratively and make informed procurement decisions the norm.

The FM sector, says David, should be focussed on how it can crack the productivity puzzle, not just in the provision of the typical FM service lines, but in the demand organisation's wider operations.

Looking ahead, David highlights the potential Brexit effect of an already noticeable reduction in EU nationals working within the UK. He sees FM's voice to government about Brexit as particularly important and emphasises the need to communicate with both government and the sector's existing workforce to ensure stability and continuity.

David's leadership is demonstrated through the relationships he continues to build with fellow Bouygues Energies & Services employees. Despite a demanding schedule, he personally mentors several members of the team; from apprentices to senior management. He has also implemented a scheme that sees employees working in office-based roles spend a day a year doing frontline work.

David also manages a hugely successful graduate scheme that sees 15 graduates join the business every year. In addition, David supports the company's apprenticeship scheme; he has recognised the urgent need to replace an ageing engineering workforce, inherited under numerous TUPE transfers. (Bouygues Energies & Services has become part of the 5% club; a scheme that strives to achieve 5% of their workforce in 'earn and learn' positions.)

David's experience and his willingness to engage in debate is why he is able to speak intelligently about the issues that surround the FM business. He has a strong understanding of the economic and political environment and a long-term view of how Bouygues Energies & Services can develop to support the wider UK economy. In addition, David maintains this long-term vision for employees too, appreciating the need for their careers to evolve as technology becomes more prominent within the sector.

However, investing in long-term working relationships with employees is only part of David's solution. He sees sustainable relationships with demand organisations as similarly critical, to which end he works to understand his customers' current and future needs, building an offering that works for them now, and long into the future.

What the judges said:

"Strong testimonials presented an image of a statesman with gravitas; this was a superior submission from an impressive Leader. David is dedicated to the industry with in-depth understanding of FM. He is a dedicated professional who cares about the sector. An outstanding winner."