Your nomination should address one or more of the below:

1. Innovation and leadership: What have you done that makes you/your organisation stand out?

2. Impact and success: What impact have you/your organisation made, and how do you measure this?

3. Internal development: How have you upskilled your organisation around data? What processes are in place to support better data management?

Category:

1st choice: PropTech of the Year

2nd choice: Data for Good Initiative of the Year

Organisation Summary:

Please share a summary of up to 200 words about your organisation and what it would mean to win this award.

Homelync was founded in 2018 with a broad ambition of creating a technology company with deep social values and a social mission. We aimed to deploy the latest IoT technology in social housing - the homes which are often the last to access the latest innovations. After securing our first pilot project with Stirling council, many others followed, including some 6-figure contracts. As a result, the team has grown exponentially, and we've won dozens of awards.

In mid-2020, we were acquired by our industry's leading brand: Aico. With the turn of the year, we've rebranded to HomeLINK to align our branding and product families.

Our system integrates and analyses sensor data using advanced machine learning techniques. The benefits delivered to the landlords, residents and wider society include savings in money and carbon emissions, improved services, health, social care,fire safety and more proactive maintenance rather than reactive.

The global pandemic enhanced our business case, as energy consumption along with indoor air quality became more critical during lockdown.

Winning the British Data Awards would help us to raise awareness of the disruptive opportunities IoT can bring to social housing and would help us on our mission to improve people's lives with technology.

Entry summary

Please tell us in no more than 500 words why this entry should win.

HomeLINK is revolutionising how technology is used in the social housing sector. We're able to empower social landlords with their data to identify issues before they appear.

For instance, our condensation and mould risk indicator identifies homes at risk by monitoring indoor temperature and humidity levels using environmental sensors. At medium or high risk, the resident and landlords are made aware of the issues, so they can either check for mould or implement measures to improve their living conditions by, e.g. ventilating their home or putting on the radiator in the bathroom more often.

During lockdown, a healthy living environment became more important than ever as we spend more time at home. Informing the residents of poor Indoor Air Quality caused by a high CO_2 level, therefore has a significant impact on the residents' health. Many organisations across the UK, such as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, are warning of the consequences of poor IAQ. The Scottish government even went a step further and made the monitoring of CO_2 mandatory for new build properties. The information can also help social landlords identify where a building requires additional mechanical ventilation.

Another aspect of a healthy home is the avoidance of excess cold, as it causes 30% of winter deaths and links to respiratory illnesses, reduced mobility and poor mental health. HomeLINK analyses temperature data to identify dwellings that are found to be under a number of low-temperature thresholds for various time periods. When also looking at the energy consumption of a property, we can detect tenants who are potentially living in fuel poverty. This can help landlords identify where investment would have the most significant impact and ensure housing and energy services can help those most in need.

We also help our customers tackle the roots of fuel poverty - Energy Efficiency. We're able to calculate Newton's constant for our properties, which is represented on the dashboard by the average time it takes for a property to drop by 1°C.

As part of our collaborative work with Wolverhampton Homes and their current property management Northgate Public Services, we've given advice to one resident who had a high mould risk in their bathroom and kitchen and, unknown to HomeLINK, had previously reported problems with mould growth. The risk was caused due to both sustained high humidity and low indoor temperatures.

Another mould-issue was detected in a resident's property. We've been able to classify the mould as non-behavioural. As a result, further investigation was carried out and highlighted a leaky guttering causing water ingress.

Our system also evaluated homes by how energy-efficient they were and identified optimal homes to target energy efficiency investment. A high priority maintenance alert was triggered as one resident had disconnected his fire alarm.

The overall results from the first 5-month-period were striking: we've managed to help every resident save £23 on electricity and 70kg of CO_2. Furthermore, ventilation improved by 19% leading to better respiratory health and maintenance outcomes as well as reducing behavioural mould risk.