Cryo Users Conference 2026 - Manchester

7-9 September 2026 | University of Manchester



Conference dinner at Manchester Museum beneath the spectacular suspended whale skeleton.

The 2026 Cryo Users Conference was held at the University of Manchester's Schuster Building over three days from 7-9 September. The conference brought together cryogenic users from universities and industry, with a varied programme of technical presentations, safety discussions, facility tours and plenty of opportunities to catch up and share experiences with others working in cryogenics.

Kicking Off in Manchester

The first evening was a relaxed dinner followed by drinks in the accommodation bar. It was a great chance to catch up with familiar faces and meet new ones before the main conference program got underway.

The conference opened with René Breton, Deputy Head of Physics at the University of Manchester, who gave an interesting introduction to the department and an insight into some of the research currently being carried out in Manchester. This was followed by Paul Walmsley, who spoke about helium research at Manchester, before a series of presentations from universities and industry covering new technologies, developments and projects from across the cryogenics community

A particular highlight was Alex Jones from ISIS discussing the failure of a screw compressor on the ISIS liquefier. The presentation gave everyone plenty of food for thought, particularly the way the team identified the fault and found a local company able to repair the damaged compressor.



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Cryogenic Safety

Safety was also a key part of the programme, with Bob Wiltshire from PGS delivering an interactive cryogenic safety session. The session included plenty of audience participation and Q&A, providing an opportunity to discuss real-world safety issues and share experiences from different facilities.

Behind the Scenes at Manchester



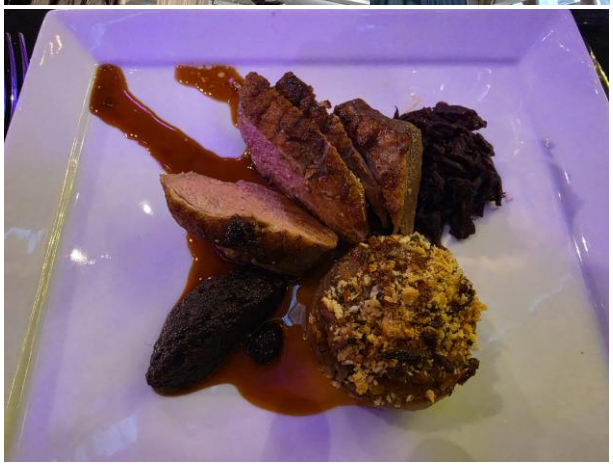
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Following the technical talks, delegates were given a tour of the University of Manchester cryogenics facility and laboratories. Highlights included seeing the university's helium liquefier and getting a closer look at Paul Walmsley's spin cryostat, along with some of the other cryogenic equipment and research facilities in use across the department

Dinner with a T. rex!









One of the highlights of the conference was undoubtedly the conference dinner at Manchester Museum. The evening started with a drinks reception before moving into the museum for dinner, surrounded by some of its impressive exhibits - including Stan the T. rex and the spectacular suspended whale skeleton. It was a fantastic setting for the evening and a great opportunity to catch up with colleagues from other universities and industry in slightly less technical surroundings!

Final Day & Open Forum

Wednesday brought a final series of technical presentations, covering topics including Sumitomo CCR systems, large-scale cryogenic systems, low-temperature measurements and helium refrigeration systems. The conference then concluded with an open forum, providing an opportunity for delegates to discuss the conference, share their thoughts on the event and suggest ideas for future meetings.

After three busy days, the conference wrapped up with lunch before everyone headed home.

A Great Three Days in Manchester

The Cryo Users Conference continues to be a valuable opportunity to meet others working in cryogenics, hear about new technology and projects, discuss common challenges and see how other facilities operate.

Thanks to the University of Manchester, the Cryo Users Committee, speakers, sponsors and everyone involved in organising and contributing to the 2026 conference

Program and Talks

- Program
- CEG Talk
- Alex Jones
- Stress Strain EnginX
- Callum Smith
- Sumitomo CCR Systems
- Vorbuchner Cryogenics

A Special Thanks



A special thanks goes to our outgoing Chairman, Richard, who has been the driving force behind CryoUsers for over 15 years.

Richard has kept the conference going through everything from the infamous "Towelgate" in Coventry to some of the best conferences we have had. On behalf of the committee, attendees, sponsors and everyone who has been involved with CryoUsers over the years, we would like to thank Richard for all the time, effort and enthusiasm he has put into making CryoUsers what it is today.

Alongside Richard, we also owe a massive thank you to David Bater, who has looked after the conference finances for the last 16 years. Without David's hard work behind the scenes, the conference simply would not have been able to continue as successfully as it has.

But Richard's not getting away just yet! He will continue to support the committee and help with the next conference as he passes the baton to Callum Smith, who, along with John, Graham and the rest of the committee, will very shortly begin working on CryoUsers 2028!

A huge thank you to Richard and David for everything they have done for CryoUsers over the years - and here's to the next chapter!