

# Dr. John R. Thomas, PhD, MBA, FRSC

Strategic Business Consultant | Lean & Industry 4.0 Specialist | Academic–Industry Bridge

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## About Me

With 25+ years of consultancy experience and a career spanning global blue-chip companies, I help organisations deliver sustainable step changes in performance, profitability, and competitiveness.

I combine hands-on industry expertise with academic credibility – as an Industrial Fellow at Cambridge University, Lecturer for the Open University, and Industry Adviser for UWTSD's SMART Digital Accelerator.

## Core Expertise

- Lean transformation & continuous improvement
- Industry 4.0 adoption & digital strategies
- Business strategy & change management
- Supply chain & value stream optimisation
- Leadership coaching & workforce development
- Executive & university-level teaching

## Track Record of Results

- £20m+ annual savings through Lean initiatives across 25 DS Smith Packaging sites.
- 130% productivity uplift while reducing headcount by 60% at Rexam Medical.
- Automotive innovations adopted industry-wide: bulk sealant delivery & masking-tape alternatives.
- First ISO9000 certification in Wales (3M), plus TQM and continuous manufacturing with 20% cost reduction.
- Advising Welsh SMEs on digital technology adoption through SMART Digital Accelerator.
- 15 years Open University teaching & authoring MSc courses, ensuring direct industry relevance.

## Selected Roles

- Managing Director, Dr. J.R. Thomas Associates (2002–present)
- Divisional Manufacturing Manager, DS Smith Packaging (1997–2002)
- Operations Director, Rexam Medical (1994–1997)
- Lecturer, Open University (1991–2005, part-time)

## Qualifications

- • PhD (Organic Chemistry) – University of Wales
- • MBA – Open University Business School
- • BSc (Hons) Chemistry – University of Wales
- • FRSC, CChem

Availability: **Part-time, interim, or project-based consultancy assignments.**