

Bosch Technology Horizons Award 2011 finalists awarded

The Bosch Technology Horizons award, an essay writing competition for young people between the ages of 12 and 24, aims to raise the profile of engineering and technology amongst the young people. The 2011 winners of the Bosch Technology Horizons Award were recognised at an awards evening which was held at the Guildhall.

A separate presentation day was hosted by Peter Fouquet, the President of Bosch UK, to award prizes and certificates to all fourteen finalists. Peter commented at the ceremony: "We recognise that engineering minds are the main driving force behind our company's success. In fact, engineering is a key to every aspect of life. That is why we need more young people to opt for a career in engineering, especially if we are to tackle many of the major issues that we face as a society, most notably the issue of climate change." Philip Greenish, Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Engineering also spoke at the event, saying, "The Technology Horizons competition gives me much comfort because it shows that the next generation recognises the problems that face us and can see that, while there can be no simple fixes to such complex issues, diligent application of appropriate technologies can form part of the solutions. We have wonderfully talented young people in this country who are going to help us to a bright future."

The event which compered by Kate Bellingham, President of Young Engineers and former TV presenter was attended by students, teachers, parents and representatives from the various engineering organisations. A discussion session took place covering various engineering related topics. A topic of particular interest to all was how to remove ambiguity from the word engineering and make it more transparent, and what role the various engineering institutes, including associations, schools and colleges can play to make engineering more appealing to the young people.

In light of the company celebrating its 125 year anniversary this year, the entrants were asked to write a short essay in answer to questions such as, "How will engineering and technology change the way we live in the next 125 years" and "What role can engineers play to ensure a greener world in the next 125 years".

In the 14-18 year-old age group, the winner Felicity Harer from Leicester University was awarded £700. With clear evidence of research, Felicity chose to

write about how the implementation of closed-loop processes within the manufacturing industry would be essential in creating a greener world. A closed-loop manufacturing system is where some or all of the output is fed back into the input. This means that resources are reused or composted rather than discarded when the product stops working. Because components are designed to be easily reused in a new product, less energy is needed to produce the replacement for the product that has broken. The reduced energy consumption means it becomes simpler to gain all the necessary energy from renewable sources.

Norman Ng, from Imperial College London, won the first place prize of £1000 in the 19-24 year old age group. Norman was chosen as the overall winner because his unique approach to the essay question really set him apart from others in his age group. His creative and original approach to the question was supported with his own research into the topic, and showed a lot of thought into the role that engineering can play to create a greener world. Norman created products that were sustainable within his essay, such as smart packaging that decomposes down to plastic spheres and a diet consisting of reconstitutes protein from plants that helped to ease the pressure on commercial fishing. His creative and original approach to the question was backed up with his own research into the topic, and showed a lot of thought into the role that engineering can play to create a greener world.

The Bosch Technology Horizons Award (www.bosch.co.uk/technologyhorizons) for 2012 opens in September this year.

