

## News Release

# From the Olympics to the Tube – students have the engineering edge

Birmingham students unveil groundbreaking new work

24 April 2009

From the Olympics to London Underground – Birmingham’s top students will reveal groundbreaking research in a bid to prove they have the engineering edge. On **30 April 30 at the Council House, Victoria Square**, the five young engineers will present their work to the Lord Mayor of Birmingham from 9.15am.

Students from Aston, Birmingham and Birmingham City universities undertook industrial work placements to work on national projects including a pitch from Arup to the Olympic Delivery Authority for electrical services for the 2012 Olympic Handball Arena. They are competing to win The City of Birmingham Queen’s Silver Jubilee Engineering Award and the projects will be judged alongside community work by a panel which includes Rod Dawes, Chairman of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) Midland Region Committee.

Ryan Fisher worked for Arup in Solihull helping to prepare an initial design report for the Olympic Handball Arena. At Wolverhampton construction company Carillion, Mamoon Zaheer contributed to a data management system for the purchasing department – whereas Michael Warner worked for Haldex Brake in Worcestershire, involved in the design, testing and validation of a product. Pooja Rughoo worked within the forecasting support team for National Grid, at the Distribution National Control Centre in Leicester which distributes gas across the country.

Mechanical Engineering student Jeremy Van Den Bergh of Birmingham University, undertook a placement at Tube Lines Ltd in London where he produced a proposal to use heat already generated by the London Underground to power the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines. He also took part in the STEMNET Engineering Ambassador scheme and gave talks to schoolchildren about the role of engineers.

Speaking ahead of the Award, Rod Dawes, said: “Several of the students have overcome personal difficulties to almost become Chartered Engineers and they are all active within their community in some way. With six submissions to judge on the day, we will be looking for the presentation which demonstrates a dedicated commitment to engineering. This award recognises the contribution students are expected to make to the future of the industry.”

Those students entering the competition must have completed their first year and the winner will be presented with £1,000 by the Lord Mayor. In 1977 – the year of the Queen’s Silver Jubilee – Birmingham City Council started The City of Birmingham Queen’s Silver Jubilee Engineering Award with the Queen’s approval.

Jeremy commented: “It is important to educate both teachers and school children about the role engineers play in our world as many are unaware of the valuable contribution they make. These awards celebrate both the work we do as engineering students and our efforts to teach a younger generation about the profession.”

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Chauhdry Abdul Rashid – who worked for an engineering firm himself in the 1960s – added: “The Queen's Silver Jubilee Engineering Award provides a wonderful opportunity to recognise the hard work and achievements of engineering students from Birmingham's universities.”

As well as contributing to such awards, the IMechE also prepares the next generation of mechanical engineers by offering membership to **Engeneration**, a scheme that aims to support students right the way through their studies. Free to join, members are provided with course advice, learning materials, mentors, and details of industry-led events. Students can easily sign up, with only the consent of a teacher and parent required.

The City of Birmingham Queen’s Silver Jubilee Engineering Award takes place on 30 April, from 9.15am at the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham.

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

- Media are invited to attend the presentation at 12.30pm. For more information or to attend please contact the IMechE Press Office on 020 7304 6888 or email [media@imeche.org](mailto:media@imeche.org) or call Rod Dawes on 01785 661847.
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) was established in 1847 and has some of the world’s greatest engineers in its history books. It currently has around 80,000 members in 120 countries representing mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. Visit [www.imeche.org](http://www.imeche.org) for more information.