

News Release

Visionaries Can Change the World

Institution of Mechanical Engineers holds first ever Vision Awards celebrating young pioneers of science and engineering.

For Immediate Release:

Identity of Visionaries is embargoed until 6pm 2 October

Can you imagine a world without medical breakthroughs, spacecraft, energy, and aeroplanes we have accomplished today?

Well on Thursday 2 October, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMEchE) hosted its first ever Vision Awards event, a new educational scheme that celebrates exceptional talent and achievement in science and engineering.

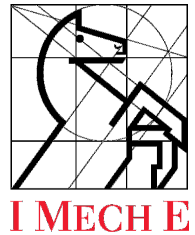
None of the world's most amazing achievements could happen without Visionaries and to celebrate, the IMechE is uniting some of the country's leading companies to help raise the profile of these achievements.

The Vision Awards honoured three individuals from three unique strands this year from apprentice level to senior academic. These were Siobhan Kohli-Lynch, a 21-year-old engineering degree student from Glasgow, Trinidad-born Jenny Tagallie, a Whitworth Scholar and Subsea engineer for Aberdeen consultancy, JP Kenny Caledonia Ltd and Robert Manley, a 23-year-old apprentice from Reading, who is also a qualified Engineering Technician.

The awards, took place at IMechE headquarters in London, with special guests attending including Guest of Honour, Professor Robert Winston and IMechE Member and Olympic rowing champion, Pete Reed. Speaking of the similar qualities required of a Visionary and an Olympic Champion, Lieutenant Reed said: "Talent alone does not make Olympic Champions. It takes dedication, determination and discipline. I believe it is these same qualities that make a visionary. To stand above the rest your desire for goal must equal your fear of failure."

By celebrating the young engineering talent we have in this country today, it is hoped that the Vision Awards will help to raise the profile of science and engineering and its contribution to society, generate interest in engineering and lead to an increase in the number of students entering the profession. During the day firms including Astrium, will exhibit exciting new projects including Astrium's new full-scale Exo-Mars Bridget Model, EON will bring an interactive energy stand for youngsters and Airbus will show off a model of their environmentally friendly A380 model.

Each Visionary was chosen from one of the key groups of awards: EngTech, Undergraduate, and Whitworth. They have also demonstrated academic ability, technical skill and exceptional dedication to their chosen profession. IMechE President, Bill Banks, said: "Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in the first ever Vision Awards. My experience of academia and industry has made me realise that one of the biggest challenges facing us is not simply the issue of climate change or medical breakthroughs, but society's mindset of what engineering is. Engineering is not just a machine, a branch of technology, or an equation to be solved - it is people. Through this scheme we want to showcase talented people who inspire change and drive innovation forward. "These awards underpin our Vision; to improve the world through engineering, by inspiring, preparing and supporting tomorrow's engineers to respond to society's challenges. Engineers are the pioneers of modern civilisation and the Vision Awards aim to recognise that."



Ends

Notes to Editors

- Although the names of the three Visionaries are under embargo until 6pm, media are invited to film and attend the IMechE for interviews with exhibitors and students. Please contact the Press Office on 0207 304 68880 or email media@imeche.org to arrange filming/interviews.
- The IMechE is the global voice for mechanical engineering and supports a vast range of engineering education initiatives across schools and universities. It has over 75,000 members in 120 countries and represents mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few.