

# RSA Competition update

## Smart modules

TEP has supported the RSA's Student Design Awards for several years and has taken a particular interest in encouraging students to apply new technology in product design. This year it has co-sponsored a category called *Future Homes* and made available to students a miniature electronics module capable of 'smart' behaviour. This category of the competition has attracted wide interest and now, for the first time, we can roll out the supporting resource to schools - giving A level students (and others) an insight into this kind of design challenge.

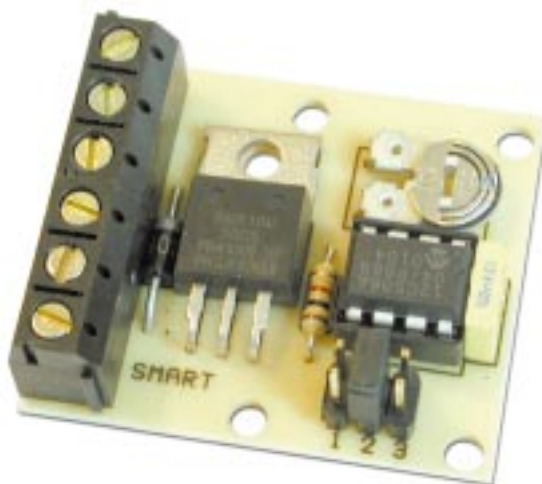
The module itself is a miniature printed circuit board that can be wired up for use without specialised knowledge or tools. It can be used to illustrate embedded intelligence in a product prototype by

responding to either light or temperature changes to turn things on and off. The module can be programmed via a small jumper link to give added versatility - e.g. it can be set to turn off rather than on when a threshold condition is reached. It requires only the addition of input sensors and output devices such as motors, lamps and buzzers.

The Smart Module pack is supplied complete with operating

instructions and a summary of the RSA challenge. TEP schools are invited to apply for a pack - or which the first 500 will be provided free of charge. Without obligation, schools are invited to submit photographs of students' work based on the module to TEP for inclusion in future editions of News and Views.

Please note that only one smart module can be allocated to a school. After the free modules are used up, they need to be ordered in the normal way at a cost of approximately £3.50 each. To obtain free modules please send your **request in writing** via post or fax using the form below. Requests cannot be dealt with by telephone because of the need for documentary records. Requests will be dealt with in order of receipt until the free modules run out, so please act quickly.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:

Kate Johns, Teaching Resources, Middlesex University, Bramley Road, Oakwood, London N14 4YZ

Fax 0208 774 0340