

INVENTIVE TECHNOLOGY STUDENTS GET TO TRAVEL THE WORLD

YOUNG ENGINEERS for BRITAIN

The Young Engineers clubs and Young Engineers for Britain (YEB) competition prize winners will be jetting off to many different parts of the world as a result of their success at the recent Celebration of Engineering.

The overall winner of the title Young Engineer for Britain 2003 went to 16 year old Jack Tovey from Lancaster Royal Grammar School with his Flood Plug, an automated flood-prevention device for housing ventilation systems. Jack will be attending the 2004 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Portland, Oregon along with Class C (17-19 years category) winner Philip Cowan, from Yarm School in Cleveland, designer of the TowGo, a trailer with a hydraulically operated drop hammer that allows one person to fence off a field.



Jack Tovey, YEB Overall Winner with his Flood Plug device

Almost 1,000 students of all secondary ages entered the competition from every corner of the UK and the finalists had to win through their regional heats to compete at the Celebration of Engineering held at the RAF Museum in Hendon, a fitting venue to also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first powered flight. The Junior Engineers for Britain K'Nex challenge final was also battled out by 15 teams of two primary pupils who were tasked with designing and building a model transporter for Airbus wings. Over 58,000 pupils from 1,800 schools entered the challenge with the final 30 coming up with some great ideas for the plane maker to consider.

With over £50,000 worth of prizes on offer, split between the students and their schools, there were special project category awards for disability, innovative use of technology, the built environment, electrical engineering, sustainable environment and engineering craftsmanship, as well as age category winners.

The YEB competition is run annually having been launched by the DTI back in 1977 to promote engineering enterprise and have proved to be the launch pad into careers in engineering and the start of many business ventures. Jeremy Siddons told this year's audience how his 1987 digital electronic component analyser led to him starting Peak Electronic Design.

An exciting development for 2004 is the merger of the Young Electronic Designer Awards (YEDA) and YEB competitions following close associations over the past few years. It is recognised that electronics and IT pervades all areas of engineering and this was borne out in 2003 when over 50% of the entries into YEB would have satisfied YEDA entry requirements. Therefore, it is clear that the national final of the merged competitions will have a strong ITEC content and ensure a simplified process for students, teachers and schools, whilst reinforcing the drive to promote the next generation of world leading engineers.



YEB Class A - Runner Up

For more information about Young Engineers clubs and the Young Engineers for Britain competition see www.youngeng.org or contact 01428 727825



Mathew Mellalieu, one of the winning students who will be attending JIII in Tokyo 2004

Three more students will also be showing of their projects when they attend the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation's (JIII) centennial celebrations in Tokyo during 2004. Tom Hughes from Lady Manners School, Bakewell, Matthew Mellalieu, Whitby Community College and Walter Johnston from Cookstown High School, Northern Ireland will be representing the UK at the JIII's International Young Inventors exhibition. Their respective projects were a wind-up battery charger with solar cells, a third world ecological power generator and a tractor mounted sheep fencing unit

Other international travellers will be the members of the Young Engineers Club of the Year from the National School, Nottingham, who will be visiting shipyards in Italy, courtesy of Lloyd's Register. There were also national club awards for Milby Primary School, Nuneaton, The King's School, Tynemouth and the Community College, Bishops Castle.



Junior Engineers for Britain K'Nex challenge National Winners