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Apprentices meet HRH The Prince of Wales at exhibition opening

National Grid supported 'Engineer Your Future' exhibition formally opens at the Science Museum

16 Dec 2014

National Grid apprentices have been showing royalty their engineering skills today (Tuesday December 16) at the opening of the 'Engineer Your Future' exhibition at the Science Museum.

As part of this afternoon's formal opening, five first-year apprentices from our Eakring training academy got to show HRH The Prince of Wales some of the Vex Robotics technology National Grid uses in our school engineering education programmes.

National Grid is one of a consortium of businesses supporting the 3-year-exhibition designed to inspire and engage young people about the exciting world of engineering.

Steve Holliday, CEO of National Grid and Chair of the consortium, said: "Engineering is creating the future. The internet, the tablet computer, space rockets, the electricity grid that supplies your homes, were all designed, built and maintained by Engineers. If creating the things that are going to shape all our futures excites you, then why wouldn't you want to be an Engineer?"

"The stark fact is, we need to double the number of engineering related apprentices and graduates in the UK. Engineering makes up to a quarter of UK turnover, there are jobs out there, but there's a shortage of people with the skills to do those jobs. So it's not just about individual businesses, it's about the growth of the UK economy. That's why we've got behind this exhibition, to inspire more young people about the exciting, varied, well paid jobs there are in this field."

The exhibition features a series of interactive exhibits and people are encouraged to get hands on. It includes an interactive game, that can also be downloaded onto phones and tablet computers as an App, where players design their own vehicle to move across an alien landscape. They'll compete against other players and others 'rovers', some designed by a real Mars rover engineer.

Visitors can also explore FutureVille, a vibrant futuristic cityscape controlled by your own smartphone, where users are tasked with collecting and transporting engineers to their place of work, while discovering more about 35 real engineers. It is projected onto a large 3D printed mechanical set which moves in response to actions within the game.

As well as National Grid, the consortium members also include ABB, BT, EDF Energy, IBM, Mott MacDonald, Network Rail, the Royal Academy of Engineering, EngineeringUK and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. The Science Museum are using 'Engineer Your Future' to pledge support to the Your Life campaign, which aims to boost the number of young people studying physics and mathematics.

Science Museum Director Ian Blatchford said: "The aim of Engineer Your Future is to surprise, intrigue and tempt the vast numbers of young people who visit the Science Museum to think seriously about becoming engineers."

The Exhibition opens to the public on 17 December 2014 and is free.

Notes to Editors:

National Grid

For more information about National Grid's involvement in Engineer Your Future and their educational programme please contact **Rebecca Watson on 07771 341 537** or email Rebecca.Watson@nationalgrid.com

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world and has been named Responsible Business of the Year 2014 by Business in the Community. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

Engineer Your Future

Engineer Your Future opens at the Science Museum on 17 December 2014. This free exhibition will run for three years. Further information, including links to careers advice and details of many of the engineers featured in the exhibition can be found at sciencemuseum.org.uk/engineeryourfuture. Follow the conversation online using #EngineerYourFuture.

Engineer Your Future is part of the Science Museum's pledge to support the Your Life campaign, which aims to boost the number of young people studying physics and mathematics.

For information and images for *Engineer Your Future*, please contact Will Stanley in the Science Museum Press Office via 020 7942 4429 or william.stanley@sciencemuseum.org.uk.

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.

- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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