

For immediate release

Maths competition connects industry and education

Two students on work placements with engineering companies have been named as winners of the 2012 Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP) 'Maths in Work' competition. Will Springthorpe and Alice Hardy both won top prizes for writing a piece to show how they used GCSE/A Level maths in their work.

The 'Maths in Work' competition challenges students on an EDT Year in Industry placement to submit exemplars that illustrate how they applied maths in their work. The exemplars must convey how school maths is used in 'real-life' problems in the workplace. The winning exemplars are used by schools and colleges to help give insights to younger students.

The competition is open to all EDT Year in Industry students and their co-employees throughout the UK, but coincidentally both winners are based in the South West.

Will Springthorpe is spending a gap year between school and university working for Delphi, a leading global automotive provider of fuel injector systems, at their Stonehouse site in Gloucestershire. He plans to start a degree in Civil Engineering later this year. Will's entry explained how he used the Trapezium Rule to calculate the amount of fuel delivered by an injector into an engine cylinder.

Alice Hardy is part-way through an Engineering degree at Swansea University and is spending a year-long placement with Praxair Surface Technologies Ltd in Swindon, Wiltshire. Alice's entry explained how she had used the Pythagorean Theorem to calculate the flight speed of a spray gun to ensure that the coating that it applied to a spiral-shaped bar was evenly distributed.

Copies of the winning entries, together with several other highly commended entries, are available at www.furthermaths.org.uk/student_area/realworldmaths.php.

Janice Richards, Industry Programme Leader for Mathematics in Education and Industry, which manages the FMSP said:

"The competition is a wonderful way of highlighting the wide range of ways in which maths is applied in the workplace. School teachers and FE lecturers can use the exemplars to help students to understand that the maths they are learning has important practical applications."

Chris Ward, SE & SW Regional Director for the EDT, said:

"The EDT and specifically the Year in Industry scheme is delighted that two of its students have received this award and to be working with MEI. It is really exciting and refreshing to see students being able to provide great demonstrations of the way maths is used in the work place."

Alice Hardy, one of the winners said:

“My placement has been invaluable in showing me how my studies can relate to the real world of engineering, and will greatly help me at university. Entering the Mathematics in Work competition was an opportunity to show how my maths studies in particular related to the work we do at Praxair; these seem so much more valuable when it can be applied to something real that is essential for the company to operate.”

Notes to Editors

1. The Further Mathematics Support Programme (FMSP) is a government-funded initiative which is managed by Mathematics in Education and Industry. The FMSP works with local schools and colleges to support and promote the study of AS/A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics and to arrange Further Mathematics tuition for students when their schools and colleges cannot provide it themselves. For more information about the FMSP see www.furthermaths.org.uk.
2. Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) is an independent charity that supports mathematics education. MEI builds links between industry and education and supports and aims to improve mathematics in the workplace. For more information about MEI see www.mei.org.uk.
3. The EDT is the largest provider of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) enrichment activities for UK youth. EDT helps develop partnerships, builds links between education and industry and helps organisations reach talent and connect with young engineers and scientists across the UK. EDT's range of work related learning schemes provide opportunities for 11-21 year olds to enhance their technical, personal and employability skills through industry-led projects, industrial placements and specialised courses. EDT's Year in Industry scheme provides paid career development work placements for students completing A levels/Scottish Highers/equivalent qualifications or as part of a university sandwich year. For more information about EDT see <http://www.etrust.org.uk/>.
4. Delphi Corp. is a leading global supplier of electronics and technologies for autos, commercial and other vehicles with more than 100,000 employees at 270 locations and 24 engineering centres in 32 countries. The Delphi Stonehouse plant manufactures heavy duty diesel injection systems for trucks, buses, off-road vehicles and marine applications for use throughout the world. For more information about Delphi, visit the media room at www.delphi.com/media
5. Praxair is a global Fortune 300 company that supplies atmospheric, process and specialty gases, high-performance coatings, and related services and technologies. The company designs, engineers and constructs cryogenic and non-cryogenic supply systems around the world. The Praxair Surface Technologies subsidiary applies metallic and ceramic coatings and powders to metal surfaces in order to resist wear, high temperatures and corrosion. For more information about Praxair see <http://www.praxair.com/praxair.nsf>.

Images of the presentations to the winners accompany this release (see below). For further information please contact:

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Peter Rayner (Will's manager), Janice Richards (MEI), Dave Friday (Director & General Manager, Delphi (Heavy Duty Business)), Will Springthorpe (competition winner), Chris Ward (EDT)



Janice Richards (MEI), Alice Hardy (competition winner), Daniel Lock (Alice's manager), Chris Ward (EDT)