



15 February 2018

RAF Museum Cosford hosts Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge regional finals

Date: Thursday 8 March 2018

Time: 10am – 3pm

One of 25 regional heats of the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge, which see students involved in "aviation missions", takes place at Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, on Thursday 8 March 2018. The event will host 24 teams (240 students) competing for a place at the UK finals to be held at The Big Bang Fair in March.

The Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge introduces student teams to real-world engineering, technology, robotics and computing challenges. The challenge aims to help students put their school learning into context and discover exciting new careers.

Each of the 24 teams taking part received free LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) resources.

The school's student team has learnt how to build, program and control these autonomous LEGO robots to complete a series of short, exciting aviation themed missions. Students also have to research, design and present their own solution to a contemporary engineering problem faced by STEM professionals in the aviation industry.

They will be demonstrating the skills they've learned at these challenge events held around the country.

Research from EngineeringUK, who run the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge, shows that communicating engineering careers to young people is vital for the future of the British economy.

EngineeringUK's Chief Executive, Mark Titterington, said:

"In order to meet the country's demand for engineers we need to inspire more young people to consider a career in the engineering industry. Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge aims to help young people from all backgrounds understand the variety, excitement and opportunity presented by a career in engineering."



One of the lead event sponsors is RAF100 and the theme of this year's Robotics Challenge is in celebration of the Royal Air Force Centenary. The RAF is an organisation operating at the leading edge of technology, it is reliant upon a steady stream of young talent interested in pursuing careers in engineering and technology. With over half the workforce employed as engineers, the RAF keen to encourage more young women to consider STEM career pathways.

For more information on the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge please visit www.robotics.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk.

Ends...

Notes to editors:

The Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge is a curriculum-linked programme where teams of students (aged 11-14) learn how to build, program and control autonomous LEGO robots over ten weeks to complete a series of aviation missions using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 sets. Teams demonstrate the skills they've learned at challenge events held around the UK. Winners of the regional heats progress to the UK finals, hosted at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair at the NEC in March.

By presenting real-world engineering, technology and computing challenges, the programme aims to open up potential new careers to students and help put their school learning into context. Students gain feedback on their work from professional engineers and scientists.

The Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge is led by EngineeringUK and The Helsington Foundation in partnership with the RAF and Rolls-Royce. It is supported by Airbus and the Reece Foundation.

www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/robotics

Tomorrow's Engineers is a programme of co-ordinated schools outreach and careers inspiration. Tomorrow's Engineers brings a strategic approach to school's engagement, building links with industry and schools and has directly reached over 300,000 young people in the past year. National coordination helps employer outreach extend to where the need and potential impact are greatest. Tomorrow's Engineers quality careers resources provide clear, consistent information for young people, their teachers and parents.

EngineeringUK is an independent organisation that promotes the vital contribution of engineers, engineering and technology in our society. EngineeringUK partners business and industry, government and the wider science and engineering community: producing evidence on the state of engineering, sharing knowledge within engineering and inspiring young people to choose a career in engineering, matching employers' demand for skills. EngineeringUK leads engagement programmes: Tomorrow's Engineers and Big Bang.

www.engineeringuk.com

The Big Bang UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair (14-17 March 2018) is the UK's largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) for young people in the UK. The Big Bang Fair is an award-winning combination of exciting theatre shows, interactive workshops and exhibits and careers information from STEM professionals.

www.thebigbangfair.co.uk

About RAF 100

COMMEMORATE, CELEBRATE, INSPIRE: On 1 April 2018, the Royal Air Force will be celebrating its 100th birthday. To mark this occasion, we want to reflect on our history and our achievements. We also want to celebrate the work the RAF is currently doing and look forward to the next 100 years.

The centenary itself will be marked by special events, activities and other initiatives at local, regional and national level running from April to the end of September 2018. www.raf.mod.uk/raf100