

29<sup>th</sup> June 2011

## The Big Bang event explores exciting careers for students

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
10.00am – 3.30pm

**Hundreds of school children from across the West Midlands will be participating in the West Midlands' regional Big Bang Fair, hosted at the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The Fair aims to excite, educate, stimulate and enthuse young people about opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), inspiring them to consider future careers in these fields.**

Launched in 2009, The Big Bang is the UK's largest science and engineering event for young people. The national Big Bang 2011 event took place at ICC London ExCeL in March, where over 29,000 people attended. The regional Big Bangs are a series of free, annual events for young people held around the UK throughout June and July, with the West Midlands event being held at the RAF Museum Cosford.

The regional fairs are a series of live, interactive science, technology, engineering and mathematics events that offer local students the opportunity to experience hands-on learning outside the classroom in a fun, interactive and innovative way including workshops run by re-enactors. The day also offers students an opportunity to celebrate their achievements through competitions and award schemes, link classroom learning with real career choices and engage local business and industry with the next generation of employees.

Up to ten winning projects from today's event, selected by a panel of judges will go forward to the National Science & Engineering Competition, coordinated by the British Science Association in partnership with Young Engineers and The Big Bang. The competition uses the nationally recognised CREST awards, a project based awards scheme for the STEM subjects. Open to students aged 11-18 across the UK, the Competition aims to raise the profile of science and engineering in the UK. The winning students from each regional event will be put forward to showcase their project in the competition finals at The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair in March 2012 and compete for "UK Young Scientist of the Year" and the "UK Young Engineer of the Year".

Jeremy Buckle, The Big Bang Event Director says:

*"We are really excited to see some of the entries here today, the West Midlands has always done really well at the National event in March. I'm excited to see what it being produced by the students."*

Almost 1000 primary and secondary school children are expected to participate in the West Midlands Big Bang event being held at the RAF Museum Cosford today. The event has received support from over 70 organisations from business and industry and government, all hoping to inspire the next generation about the exciting opportunities in their specialist fields. The event will take place in the Museum's National Cold War Exhibition and Hangar 1 amongst a backdrop of aircraft and artefacts.

For more information on The Big Bang, please contact the national Event Director Jeremy Buckle on 07748 148777. For more information on the Museum Access & Learning programme, please call 01902 376200 or visit: [www.rafmuseum.org](http://www.rafmuseum.org). The Museum is open daily from 10am – 6pm (last admission 5pm), entry is FREE.

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**Notes to Editors:**

- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily between 10am – 6pm (Last admission 5pm)
- FREE Admission
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact:  
Michelle Worthington on 01902 376212 or email [michelle.worthington@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.worthington@rafmuseum.org)
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:  
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/media-enquiries/downloads.cfm>
- **Schools expected to attend include:**

School Name	School Town
Abhay Raji Soorya	
Alcester Grammar School	Alcester
Alcester High School	
Aston Fields Middle School	Bromsgrove
Bablake School	Coventry
Baxter College	Kidderminster
Bishop Challoner Catholic College	Birmingham
Bromsgrove School	Bromsgrove
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	
City College Birmingham	Birmingham
Codsall Community High School	Wolverhampton
Coundon Court School	Coventry
Deansfield Community School	Wolverhampton
Ercall Wood Technology College	Telford
George Salter Collegiate Academy	West Bromwich
Golden Hillock School	Birmingham
Hadley Community Learning	
Harborne Academy	Birmingham
Highfields Science Specialist School	Wolverhampton
Holyhead School	Birmingham
Jeevan Deu	
John Taylor High School	Staffordshire
King Edward Camp Hill Boys School	
King Edward V Five Ways School	Birmingham
King Edward VI Handsworth	Birmingham
King Edward VI Lichfield	
King Edward VI High School for Girls	Birmingham
King Edward's School, Birmingham	Birmingham

Kingsbury School and Sports College	Birmingham
Kingsmead Technology College	
Mary Webb School and Science College	Shrewsbury
North Bromsgrove High School	Bromsgrove
North East Wolverhampton Academy	
Oldswinford Hospital School	Stourbridge
Painsley Catholic College	Stoke on Trent
Penn Hall School	Wolverhampton
Pershore High School	Pershore
Phoenix Sports and Science School	Telford
Priory School	Shropshire
Royal Grammar School, Worcester	Worcester
RSA Academy	Tipton
Rugby High School	Rugby
Saint Martin's School	
Shropshire Home Education	Church Stretton
Small Heath School	Birmingham
Small Heath School	Birmingham
South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy	Wolverhampton
St Peter's Catholic School	Solihull
St Peter's Collegiate School	Wolverhampton
St Thomas More Catholic School	Nuneaton
Stamford School	
Sundorne School and Sports College	Shrewsbury
Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls	Birmingham
The Grange School	Shrewsbury
The King's School, Worcester	Worcester
Washwood Heath Technology College	Birmingham
Wednesfield High School	Wolverhampton