



Impact of Giving 2025/26

How your support is helping us build
a stronger future through engineering.

President's foreword



The Royal Academy of Engineering is celebrating its 50th anniversary at a time when engineering and technology have never been more important. Over the past five decades, the Academy has brought together engineers, innovators, entrepreneurs and policymakers to address society's most pressing challenges and engineer better lives.

This report showcases the impact made possible by the generosity of our donors, partners and supporters. Across the UK and around the world, philanthropy is enabling us to nurture future engineering leaders, support groundbreaking entrepreneurs, champion equity, diversity and inclusion, strengthen public understanding of engineering, and help innovators develop solutions that create lasting positive change.

The achievements highlighted in these pages demonstrate what can be accomplished when talented people are given opportunities to realise their potential. They also remind us of the scale of the challenges ahead. Climate change, economic resilience, sustainable energy, health, security, infrastructure, and the rapid advancement of technology will all require engineering expertise, leadership and innovation.

The Academy has an essential role to play in meeting these challenges. We must continue to support the next generation of engineering talent, accelerate the development and adoption of new technologies, provide trusted expert advice to decision-makers, and ensure that engineering serves the needs of society. To do so, we rely on the long-term vision, confidence and investment of our philanthropic supporters.

Our donors do far more than fund programmes. They create opportunities for young people, help ideas become innovations, enable discoveries to benefit communities, and ensure that engineering solutions can be developed where they are needed most. Their generosity gives the Academy the flexibility to act with ambition and respond to emerging opportunities and challenges with agility and purpose.

Looking ahead to the Academy's next 50 years, our ambition is clear. We want to expand opportunity, support more innovators and entrepreneurs, strengthen engineering's contribution to public policy, and increase our impact both nationally and globally. Achieving these goals will only be possible through continued partnership.

On behalf of the Academy and everyone whose lives have been touched by our work, I extend my sincere thanks to all those who support us. I hope this report demonstrates the difference your generosity makes and encourages you to continue investing in engineering's power to create a better future.

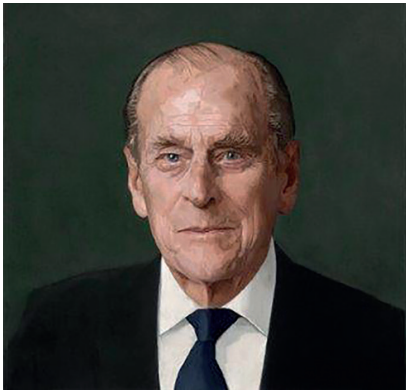
Together, we can engineer better lives for generations to come. Thank you.

Sir John Lazar CBE FREng
President, Royal Academy of Engineering

In 2025/26, Academy supporters contributed
£3,714,225
to our work.

Every gift helps us bring together the most talented engineers, promote excellence in engineering and deliver tangible, meaningful benefits for the whole of society by engineering better lives.

Thank you to everyone who supported our work last year.



The Prince Philip Fund: Endowing the future, honouring a legacy

Our 50th anniversary is a significant milestone that provides an opportunity to reflect on the Academy’s achievements and the individuals whose vision and dedication helped shape its success. Among them, none played a more important role than our Founding Senior Fellow, HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The year 1976 marked a period of extraordinary engineering achievement in the UK, from the beginning of North Sea oil and gas production from the Brent Field to the arrival of Concorde’s first commercial supersonic flights. It was also the year that 130 of the nation’s leading engineers gathered at Buckingham Palace to mark the founding of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Much has changed in the world of engineering since then, but Prince Philip’s enduring belief in the power of engineering to address society’s greatest challenges remains as relevant today as it was half a century ago. He recognised that engineers are uniquely placed to develop practical solutions to complex problems and that innovation, ingenuity and collaboration would be essential to creating a better future.

Today, that vision continues to guide the Academy’s work. Through our programmes, partnerships and policy leadership, we are helping to build a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive world.

A profound and lasting contribution

The Academy remains deeply indebted to Prince Philip for his passion, advocacy and unwavering support over many decades. He was a true champion of engineering and of the Academy’s mission to advance excellence and deliver public benefit.

We are equally grateful to the many supporters of the Prince Philip Fund who are helping to honour his legacy. Their generosity is enabling the Academy to continue tackling the challenges faced by communities both in the UK and around the world.

How you can help

The purpose of the Prince Philip Fund is to build long-term capital and investment capacity for the Academy. This allows us to invest in ambitious programmes, support future generations of engineers, and respond quickly to emerging challenges and opportunities.

If you would like to learn more about the Prince Philip Fund, discuss opportunities to support the Academy’s work, or donate, please contact:

Jamila Khalil

Senior Fundraiser, Major Donors,
via jamila.khalil@raeng.org.uk

Or visit: [www.raeng.org.uk/
prince-philip-fund](http://www.raeng.org.uk/prince-philip-fund)



Thank you for helping us honour Prince Philip’s remarkable legacy and for supporting the future of engineering.

“Contributing to the Prince Philip Fund enables me both to recognise the late Duke of Edinburgh’s huge contribution to the Academy and the engineering profession, and support the great work the Academy is doing to advance and promote the use of engineering to help solve the most important challenges facing us and subsequent generations.”

Sir Peter Gershon CBE FREng Fellow, Royal Academy of Engineering



Academy past presidents, current president and CEO meet with HRH The Princess Royal

The Prince Philip Gala

On 11 June, the Academy hosted the Prince Philip Gala at St James’s Palace, bringing together supporters, Fellows, partners and friends to celebrate the Academy’s 50th anniversary. In the presence of HRH The Princess Royal the event provided a fitting opportunity to reflect on five decades of achievement and to recognise the enduring legacy of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

The Prince Philip Medal for 2025 was also awarded to Dr Nasir Ahmed in recognition of his pioneering invention and development of the Discrete Cosine Transform technology in 1972.

The evening highlighted the vital role that engineering continues to play in addressing the complex challenges facing society.

The gala also served as an important moment to look ahead. As the Academy enters its next chapter, continued philanthropic support will be essential to achieving our ambitions and expanding our impact.

The occasion reinforced both the importance of the Academy’s mission and the collective commitment required to ensure engineering continues to improve lives around the world.



HRH The Princess Royal and Sir John Lazar CBE FREng viewing Academy archives on display



Prince Philip Gala

Our history of giving, a future of impact

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, we reflect not only on the achievements of the Academy, but also on the generosity of those who have helped make them possible. This timeline showcases key milestones in the Academy's philanthropic history and the transformative impact of giving over the past five decades.

1977 to 1981

The Academy's first fundraising appeal to its Fellows provides vital early philanthropic support, helping to build the foundations for the Academy's future impact.

1982

Support from the Wolfson Foundation enables the expansion of the Academy's Industrial Research Fellowship scheme, strengthening links between academia and industry.

1984

The Panasonic Trust is established, creating new opportunities to advance engineering education and professional development.

1987

A longstanding partnership with the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, established by Lord Sainsbury HonFREng, begins. Over the decades, this support helps grow the Academy's Sainsbury Management Fellowships (now Engineers in Business Fellowships) and contributes to major Academy initiatives in education and policy work.



2013

A transformational gift from Dr John Taylor CBE FREng supports the establishment of the Academy's Enterprise Hub and the creation of the Taylor Centre, helping innovative engineers and technology entrepreneurs turn ideas into impact.

2015

A significant legacy gift from Dr Geoffrey Argent FREng enables further refurbishment and development of Prince Philip House, enabling the Academy to host a greater and wider variety of events.

2016

The Graduate Enterprise Fellowships programme, funded by the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, launches.

2018

With support from Lloyd's Register Foundation, we launch Engineering X, a landmark international programme bringing together partners, expertise and innovation to address global safety and sustainability challenges. In 2026, the Foundation confirms further major funding for the programme.

This is Engineering launches with the support of an anonymous donor, aiming to encourage more young people, from all backgrounds, to consider engineering careers.

Watch a video in celebration of our 50th anniversary:



1989 to 1991

The Academy's Development Appeal broadens philanthropic support from the Fellowship and other sources, further strengthening the Academy's capacity to deliver its charitable mission.

2004

Major support from the ERA Foundation helps launch new programmes and expand existing initiatives, accelerating the Academy's impact across the engineering profession.

2004 to 2012

Support from Fellows, corporates and charitable trusts enables the transformation of 3-4 Carlton House Terrace into Prince Philip House, creating an inspiring home for engineering and enhancing the Academy's ability to convene, collaborate and engage.

2010

A major gift from HH Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi supports the refurbishment of Prince Philip House and establishes the Al Qasimi Lecture Theatre, a prominent space for learning, discussion and public engagement.



2020

A generous bequest from the estate of John Gozzard helps strengthen the Academy's STEM education work, inspiring more young people to explore engineering.

2021

The Shott Scale Up Accelerator launches following a considerable donation from Ian Shott CBE FREng for the Academy to strengthen its offer to SMEs.

Amazon Future Engineers Scholarships launches in partnership with Amazon, to address the underrepresentation of women studying computer science or engineering-related degrees at UK universities.



2023

Mission 44, established by Sir Lewis Hamilton MBE HonFREng, begins funding the Academy's MSC Motorsport bursaries programme.

Today

Philanthropic support from individuals, trusts, foundations, companies and legators continues to power the Academy's mission, enabling engineering excellence to create a more sustainable, resilient and inclusive future.

Together, we can do more.

Behind every gift is a commitment to engineering's future

With your help we raised £55,000 for the President's Annual Appeal. Here are some of the reasons our donors chose to support the Academy.



"I am keen to support the Academy initiatives that will enhance the lives of the future generations of both young and older people. The Academy is critically placed to make a significant impact."

**Professor Michael Forde
FREng FRSE**

"Our present societies are enjoying the vision and skills of previous generations of engineers. New generations of engineers will be essential to providing effective solutions to societies evolving challenges and the need to create sustainable wealth. Having enjoyed a rewarding lifelong career in engineering, I feel indebted to support the ongoing education and training of tomorrow's engineers through contributing to the Prince Philip Fund."

Dr John Ferrie FREng



"Helping the Academy going forward supporting engineering learning in the UK because of its importance to our country."

**Professor Anthony Trinick
FREng**



Turning engineering innovation into impact

600+

ENTREPRENEURS SUPPORTED

6,100+

JOBS CREATED

£3.8 billion+

FOLLOW-ON INVESTMENT RAISED

£19 million+

AWARDED IN GRANTS

6

REGIONAL HUBS ACROSS THE UK

50+

INVESTORS ENGAGED THROUGH THE 2026 DEEP TECH DEMO DAY



Hub members and staff

Enterprise Hub named the UK’s leading startup hub

In February 2026, our Enterprise Hub was recognised as the UK’s leading startup hub in the Financial Times and Statista rankings, while also securing 11th place among Europe’s top 180 startup hubs. The recognition reflects more than a decade of supporting ambitious engineering and technology entrepreneurs to transform innovative ideas into successful, high-growth businesses.

The Hub’s portfolio includes businesses that are tackling some of society’s greatest challenges, from clean energy and advanced materials to biotechnology and quantum computing.

A key part of the Hub’s success is its access to the Academy’s Fellowship, enabling founders to benefit from expert mentorship and practical advice from some of the UK’s leading engineers and business leaders.

“Securing the top spot in the FT rankings is an incredible milestone for the Enterprise Hub and the founders we support from across the UK. This recognition reflects the strength of our community and what is possible when exceptional talent is given the right platform to grow.”

Ana Avaliani
Director of Enterprise,
Royal Academy of Engineering

Helping deep-tech businesses grow

The Enterprise Hub continues to support engineering and deep-tech founders as they secure investment, create jobs and bring transformative technologies to market.

Over the past year, Hub members and alumni achieved a series of significant milestones.

- Hypervision Surgical raised £17 million in investment.
- Nanomox secured £2.4 million to scale its technology for recovering valuable metals from waste streams.
- Matta raised £10.4 million.
- Rhizocore secured £4.5 million to accelerate its growth.

Several Academy-supported entrepreneurs also enjoyed major international success.

- Nu Quantum completed a \$60 million Series A funding round, reported as the largest Series A investment raised for a UK quantum company.
- Quantum Dice secured a €2 million grant to advance its pioneering work in probabilistic computing.
- Paragraf’s \$55 million Series C funding round
- Switchee was included in the Sifted 250 list of Europe’s fastest-growing startups.

These successes demonstrate the growing strength of the UK’s deep-tech sector and the important role that philanthropy plays in helping innovative engineering businesses thrive.

“The Enterprise Hub provided a great network of experienced people and a genuinely supportive community. The relationships with mentors and advisors have significantly influenced our progress. Each programme provided support at a different stage of the company’s journey, from the earliest foundations and international market engagement, through to the operational and leadership challenges of scaling a high-growth MedTech company.”

Dr Michael Ebner
CEO and co-founder, Hypervision Surgical



Hub members and staff at various Hub events



Sheffield Hub opening

Expanding opportunity across the UK

In October 2025, the Academy strengthened its regional presence with the launch of a new Enterprise Hub in Sheffield, joining existing hubs in Belfast, Glasgow, Liverpool, Newcastle and Swansea.

The Academy's regional network allows it to work closely with local innovators, universities, businesses and policymakers, ensuring support is tailored to regional strengths and opportunities. By embedding itself within local innovation ecosystems, the Academy can help entrepreneurs access the expertise, networks and resources needed to turn promising ideas into successful ventures.

The Sheffield Hub is particularly well placed to support the growth of deep tech businesses. The city is home to more than 60,000 students across the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University, with a strong concentration of STEM talent and a proven track record in commercialising engineering research.

"We hope that by having a physical presence in Sheffield, this will act as a beacon to attract more entrepreneurs to the community as we continue to work alongside regional leaders to build the region's engineering economy."

Gillian Gregg
Associate Director, Regional Engagement,
Royal Academy of Engineering

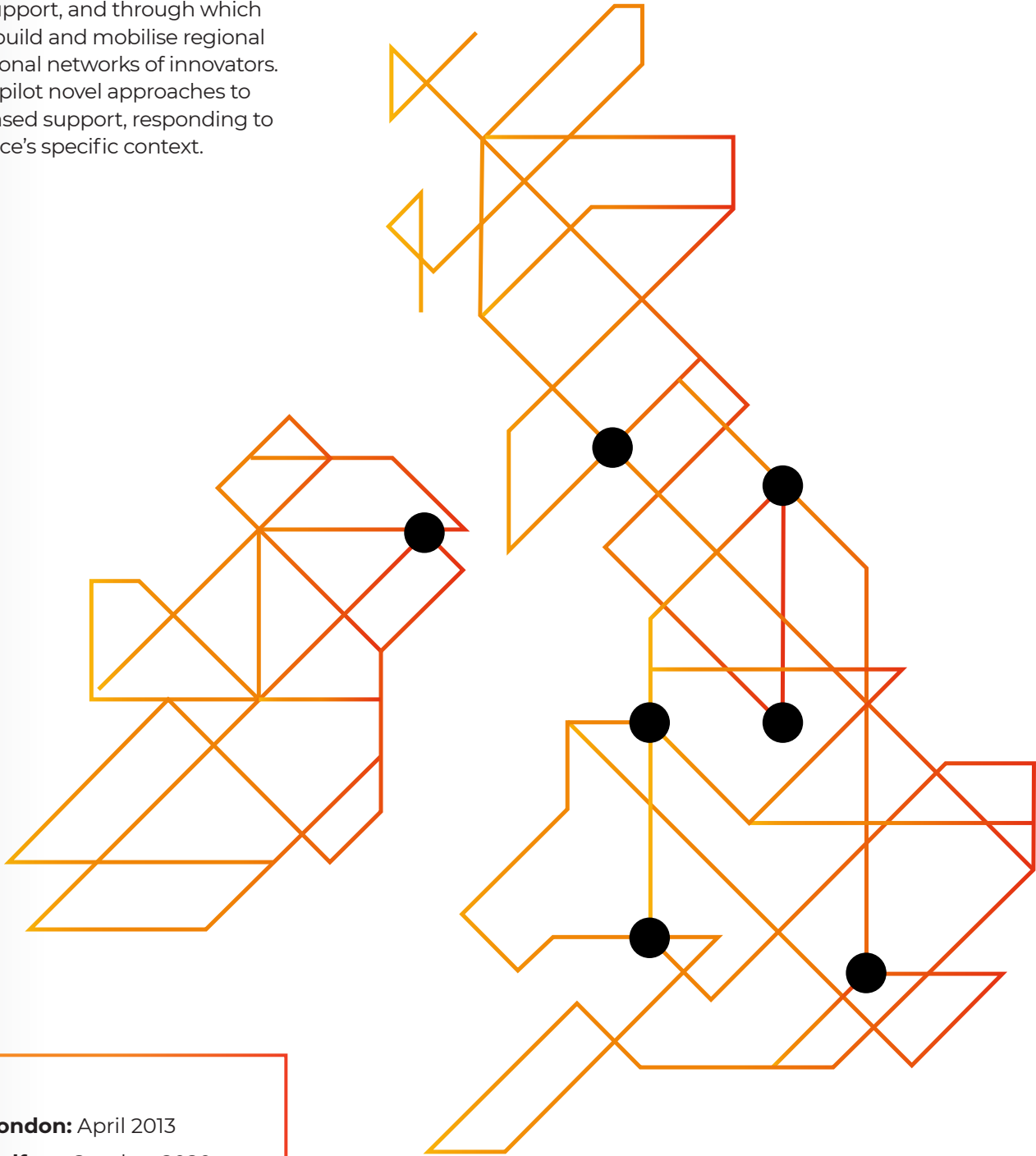


Attendees at a Hub social event



Enterprise Hub network

Regional Enterprise Hubs provide the Academy with a unique network through which we can grow and build on existing programme and policy support, and through which we can build and mobilise regional and national networks of innovators. We also pilot novel approaches to place-based support, responding to each place's specific context.



- London:** April 2013
- Belfast:** October 2020
- Swansea:** March 2023
- Glasgow:** May 2024
- Newcastle:** March 2025
- Liverpool:** June 2025
- Sheffield:** October 2025

Creating opportunity through engineering innovation

- 181 businesses and entrepreneurs supported from 24 countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- \$34 million raised by alumni of the Africa Prize in grants and equity
- More than 70% of alumni businesses are generating revenue



Now in its 12th year, the Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation announced a shortlist of 16 innovators from 11 African countries for this year's prize. Their innovations span healthcare, education, sustainability and digital technologies, including AI-powered maternal and cardiac health tools, mobile dialysis technologies, renewable energy systems, smart agriculture platforms and clean water solutions.

The prize provides mentoring, training, funding and access to networks that help innovators transform promising ideas into scalable businesses. Since 2014, Africa Prize alumni have launched nearly 700 products and services across more than 40 countries.

By connecting talented engineers with the knowledge, skills and networks they need to succeed, the Africa Prize is helping create sustainable solutions that improve lives, strengthen communities and drive economic growth across Africa.

From innovation to impact



Elly Savatia wins the 2025 Africa Prize

The 2025 Africa Prize winner, Elly Savatia of Kenya, developed Terp360, an AI-powered sign language translation app. The technology addresses shortages of sign language interpreters and improves accessibility in classrooms, workplaces and public services.

“Winning the Africa Prize last year marked a major milestone for us at Signvrse. Through the APEI programme, we strengthened both the engineering behind Terp360 and the business behind our work, developing a robust, investor-ready business model while refining our technology roadmap. The Prize also connected us with partners and advisors who helped us build the infrastructure needed to make communication accessible for diverse deaf communities.”

Elly Savatia
2025 Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation winner

Supporting the Africa Prize is crucial to helping us secure the future of the programme and continue supporting engineering talent and solutions that transform African communities.

Find out why here:



Case Study: Agri View turning waste into opportunity



Rui Bauhofer, 'One-to-Watch' award winner

In Mozambique, Africa Prize participant and the 2025 'One-to-Watch' winner, Rui Bauhofer founded Agri View to create an environmentally friendly alternative to disposable tableware, made from maize husk waste sourced from smallholder farmers. The company's Eco-Plates are fully biodegradable and contain seeds that can be planted after use, transforming waste into a potential new food source.

Devastation caused by more frequent floods and natural disasters in Mozambique inspired Rui and brother Joaquim to create a dual-purpose solution to recycle agri-waste and also benefit small-scale farmers.

Support from the Africa Prize has helped Agri View move from early prototype development to practical market validation.

“The award funding was used to improve our artisanal production into a small-scale production and market testing. A significant portion was used for local equipment manufacturing services, including a mould and deckle, a manual hot press, a blender, clamps and other small tools needed to improve production consistency. We also purchased maize husks from four small farmers in a village in Katembe, supporting our raw-material

sourcing model while testing supply quality. The remaining funds supported website development and early work on our ESG capture platform, which will help clients track environmental and social impact from the use of our products.”

The business has since been invited to participate as a technical partner in a potential United Nations Industrial Development Organisation project valued at approximately \$1 million, creating an exciting opportunity to scale its impact and support even more communities across Mozambique.



Rui and Joaquim Bauhofer

Awardee Excellence Community: Connecting and empowering talent

7,000+

GLOBAL MEMBERS WORLDWIDE

47

COMMUNITY EVENTS DELIVERED TO DATE

200+

NEW MEMBERS ONBOARDED FROM NON-TRADITIONAL PROGRAMMES IN 2026

25

MEMBERS TRAINED AS STEM AMBASSADORS IN 2026

5

AEC MEMBERS ELECTED FELLOWS IN 2025

#1

WINNER OF THE UK BUSINESS AWARD FOR BEST CLIENT EXPERIENCE (2026)

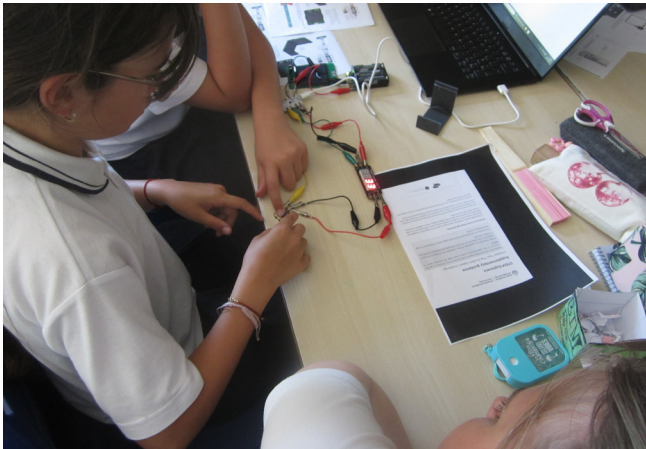
Our Awardee Excellence Community (AEC) continues to grow as a vibrant network that supports, connects and champions talented engineers and researchers at every stage of their careers. Bringing together recipients of Academy programmes and awards, the community provides opportunities for professional development, mentoring, collaboration and outreach, helping members maximise their impact while strengthening the engineering ecosystem.

Passing it on: inspiring future engineers

Earlier this year, the first AEC ambassadors began bringing hands-on science and engineering activities into classrooms across the UK. Through interactive workshops, they are making STEM more accessible, engaging and relevant for young people.

Early pilot workshops have already reached Year 5 and 6 pupils as well as students attending a University of Oxford summer programme. Reflecting on the session, one teacher commented:

“Once again thank you for yesterday, the children really enjoyed it. They said that they liked the different activities and the chance to do some things they wouldn’t do in a primary school classroom. It made them think about the sorts of things they could go on to do at secondary and beyond.”



Fellowship honours reflect community strength

The impact of the community can also be seen in the achievements of its members. In 2025, five AEC members were elected Fellows, highlighting the long-term impact of the Academy’s investment in engineering talent and the value of the connections, support and opportunities that the community provides.

Delivering an exceptional community experience

The exceptional experience created for community members was recognised in June 2026, when the AEC and Events teams won the UK Business Award for Best Client Experience in the Events and Exhibitions category. The award recognised the Academy’s commitment to listening to awardees, fostering collaboration across teams, and continuously enhancing the member experience through events, networking opportunities and the AEC online platform.



RAEng staff collecting their award

By continuing to invest in its members and their networks, the Awardee Excellence Community will play an increasingly important role in supporting engineering talent, strengthening collaborations and building a thriving global community of engineering leaders.

“The Shott Scale Up Accelerator is different to many other accelerators and funding programmes as the support provided is based on building sustainable businesses for the future, anchoring advanced engineering and manufacturing within the UK. For me, building relationships with a likeminded cohort, brings welcome experience, advice and perspective when things get tough.”

Jonathan Brown
HyperMotive, Shott Scale Up Accelerator Cohort 16 and AEC member



Transforming potential into success

For the past ten years, the Graduate Engineering Engagement Programme (GEEP) has helped talented students from underrepresented backgrounds build the confidence, skills and networks needed to thrive in engineering.

- More than 2,000 students supported
- Worked with more than 50 engineering partners
- 70+ universities have participated
- In 2025/26, 51% of students were exposed to work opportunities, a 33% increase from last year
- 1,065 hours of mentoring calls in 2025/26

These achievements would not have been possible without the ongoing support of GEEP’s employer partners. As a truly collaborative programme, GEEP relies on volunteers from across industry who generously give their time to mentor students, share industry insights at events, and provide valuable work-exposure opportunities. By offering real-world perspectives on engineering and acting as supportive role models, they play a vital role in helping to develop the next, more diverse generation of engineers.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the programme, around 100 alumni and programme partners gathered to speak about continued challenges as well as celebrate the progress made over the past decade and why the engineering profession still needs programmes like GEEP.



GEEP participants



Kyle Wright giving a talk to new GEEP graduates

From GEEP student to GEEP champion

Kyle Wright was struggling to secure a placement and facing repeated rejections. After graduating from GEEP, Kyle became a GEEP ambassador and later a mentor.

“My journey with GEEP, from student to ambassador and from mentee to mentor, has had a lasting impact on my professional development which when I initially undertook, I hadn’t even realised. The experience helped me become a more effective communicator – especially when engaging with new starters at work. It gave me the confidence to support others as they begin their careers in engineering. GEEP taught me the importance of active listening and patience, which has been invaluable when working with people who are just starting out.”

“More recently, I’ve started mentoring students outside of engineering, still applying the frameworks and approaches I learned through GEEP. It’s been a key part of how I’ve grown as a leader and communicator.”

Stories like Kyle’s demonstrate how GEEP creates lasting impact, empowering students not only to succeed in engineering but also to become role models for the next generation.

Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship: supporting women to thrive in technology

In partnership with Amazon, we continue to support talented women from low-income backgrounds to pursue degrees in computer science and engineering through the Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship programme. Each scholar receives a package of financial support and mentoring, helping to break down barriers to higher education and build confidence, skills and professional networks.

Since its launch in 2021, the programme has awarded more than £1.6 million in scholarships and now supports 81 women studying at universities across the UK. Recipients are recognised not only for their academic potential but also for their commitment to using technology to make a positive difference in society.

This year, the Academy surveyed scholars from the first two cohorts to better understand the programme’s long-term impact. The results demonstrate strong progression into engineering, technology and related professional careers.

The results highlight the effectiveness of combining financial support with mentoring, networking opportunities and personal development. By helping talented women overcome barriers to accessing higher education and technology careers, the Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship is creating a growing community of future engineers, researchers and technology leaders.



Andrea Johnson

“The award has truly been transformative for me, allowing me to pursue opportunities I never thought possible. For example, thanks to the funding, I was able to accept a position as a visiting student researcher in Canada this summer, which, so far, has been a pivotal experience for my academic and personal growth. It has also given me the time and resources to give back to my student community. This past year, I served as Outreach Officer for our Women in Tech Society, where I organised events to support first-time hackathon participants and alleviate their stress. This coming year, I will also step up as the elected President of our Computing Society.”

Andrea Johnson
Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship recipient



Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship recipients share their experience:



Research Ready: building the next generation of researchers

In partnership with Google DeepMind and The Hg Foundation, our Research Ready programme is opening up research careers to talented students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. By providing paid summer research placements, financial support, mentoring and access to professional networks, the programme removes financial barriers to opportunity while strengthening the UK's future engineering research pipeline through early exposure to research and postgraduate pathways.

After two years, independent evaluation shows participants have increased confidence in research, greater awareness of future opportunities and stronger progression into MSc, PhD and research-intensive careers.

James Turner, CEO of The Hg Foundation and founding donor, says:

“Research Ready is already having an impact by giving students practical experience, developing key research skills and providing motivation and encouragement to take their next steps. With two years of learning and independent evaluation, the programme is well positioned to be even stronger in the future.”

Over 85% of students said they gained valuable, hands-on and practical experience of AI research methods and careers; that their mentor provided them with genuine support and encouragement; that they gained relevant skills; and that the stipend removed financial barriers.



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30 years of developing engineering leaders

In 2025, our Engineering Leaders Scholarship (ELS) programme celebrated its 30th anniversary. Since inception, it has supported 800 undergraduates from universities across the UK to undertake accelerated personal development programmes, to acquire the skills needed to better fulfil their potential.

Thank
you from
our ELS
scholars:



“Receiving the Engineering Leaders Scholarship has allowed me to pursue opportunities that would otherwise have been out of reach. The support of the Academy has opened doors and enabled me to grow personally and professionally. I'm incredibly grateful for the experiences I've had and the connections I've made as a result. Thank you for making this possible. I hope that one day I can give back and help support the next generation of aspiring engineers.”

Rachael Andrews
ELS recipient

Sir Ralph Robins Scholarship: supporting the next generation of engineering leaders

Sir Ralph Robins Scholarship: supporting the next generation of engineering leaders

This year, the Sir Ralph Robins Scholarship takes on special significance as we remember Sir Ralph Robins FREng, who passed away in May 2026 at the age of 93. A distinguished engineer, industrialist and former chair of Rolls-Royce, Sir Ralph was a lifelong champion of engineering excellence and passionate about supporting future generations of engineers.

In addition to the support provided through the ELS programme, Sir Ralph Robins Scholars receive enhanced funding to help overcome barriers to success and accelerate their personal and professional development. The programme is designed to encourage exceptional students from a wide range of backgrounds to pursue engineering careers and fulfil their leadership ambitions.

“Sir Ralph Robins would be delighted to know that the scholarship bearing his name is proving to be a great success. Excellent leadership is vitally important in engineering as evidenced by Sir Ralph Robins' own achievements in making Rolls-Royce plc a global player.”

Professor Phil Ruffles CBE RDI FREng FRS



The late Sir Ralph Robins FREng



Matthew Uren

“I never imagined I would be at university studying engineering, as I originally trained to be a HGV mechanic. The fact this scholarship exists for students like myself, who come from non-academic backgrounds, will only serve to motivate more students into studying engineering, who may not have had the opportunity previously.”

Matthew Uren
Past Sir Ralph Robins Scholarship recipient





The second cohort of the MSc Motorsport Scholarship join Sir Lewis Hamilton HonFREng at Silverstone for the British Grand Prix weekend

Expanding opportunities in motorsport engineering

The Royal Academy of Engineering's MSc Motorsport Scholarship Programme, backed by Sir Lewis Hamilton MBE HonFREng's foundation Mission 44, continues to create new pathways into one of the UK's most competitive engineering sectors. In 2026, the programme was expanded to support even more talented aspiring engineers from underrepresented backgrounds, building on the success of a pilot initiative launched in response to recommendations from the Hamilton Commission.

"There is a strong talent pool of young people still to be discovered and supported into their dream careers. By widening the application criteria, we will encourage more future engineers from underserved communities into motorsport roles."

Jason Arthur
CEO, Mission 44

The programme provides scholarships of up to £43,000, alongside mentoring, networking opportunities and career development support. Of the 13 scholars supported so far, five have already secured roles in Formula 1 teams, with others progressing into motorsport and wider engineering careers.

Following a successful evaluation, the programme has increased the number of scholarships available from 8 to 12 and broadened eligibility criteria to include women and individuals from less advantaged socioeconomic backgrounds, alongside applicants from Black and mixed-Black backgrounds. Additional support is being delivered through new partnerships with the Association for Black & Minority Ethnic Engineers (AFBE-UK) and Driven by Us, helping scholars develop industry knowledge, professional networks and career readiness.

The expanded programme reflects the Academy's commitment to increasing diversity within engineering and ensuring that talented individuals can access opportunities regardless of their background.

"Being on this journey with seven other scholars is so motivating. Friendships have developed, and we all give each other pointers and advice – we've developed a lifelong community."

Lily Owuye

"The industry-specific insights we've gained have been really useful – insights we wouldn't have had at university alone."

Gerren Ntiri

"This scholarship has allowed me to become an example for others – and be a role model I didn't have when I was younger."

Mohamed Elnadi

This is Engineering: building a generation of future engineers

This is Engineering continues to help young people discover what engineering really is and where it can take them. Through authentic storytelling and relatable role models, the campaign is changing perceptions and inspiring more young people to consider engineering careers.

This year, we continued to grow our champions community, a network of early-career engineers who share their experiences and help young people understand different routes into the profession. We also expanded our website content, providing practical advice and guidance on how to get into engineering.

Since launch, the campaign has:

- created 100+ films featuring 52 real engineers
- generated 77 million video views
- achieved 323 million impressions
- driven 761,000 website visits
- produced 32 school resources
- built a community of 18 engineering micro-influencers
- seen over 10 million image downloads from the free image library



Evidence of lasting impact

This is Engineering has delivered a measurable shift in how young people view engineering and the role it could play in their future.

Latest research shows that:

- an estimated 1.6 million young people have been influenced to become engineers because of the campaign
- 69% of teenagers would now consider an engineering career
- 78% took action after seeing campaign content
- GCSE consideration among women increased from 26% to 46%
- A-level consideration among women increased from 21% to 30%
- UCAS engineering applications increased by 14%

Among students who chose engineering and had seen the campaign beforehand, half said the campaign influenced their decision.

Inspiring future engineers through *This is Engineering: Schools*



Through *This is Engineering: Schools*, we have brought together our regional activities in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the West Midlands into one flagship programme that aims to change perceptions of engineering, inspire participation in STEM subjects, and build teacher confidence.

In Scotland, the programme supports a network of 50 schools, helping young people explore engineering pathways and opportunities beyond post-16 education. This work is generously supported by Boeing and the Royal Air Force, Venterra, SGN, and the estate of the late John Gozzard.

In the Welsh Valleys, support from the Welsh Government and the Panasonic Trust enabled more than 3,500 pupils from 43 schools to participate in employer engagement activities during the 2025/26 academic year, while 56 schools took part in at least one programme activity.

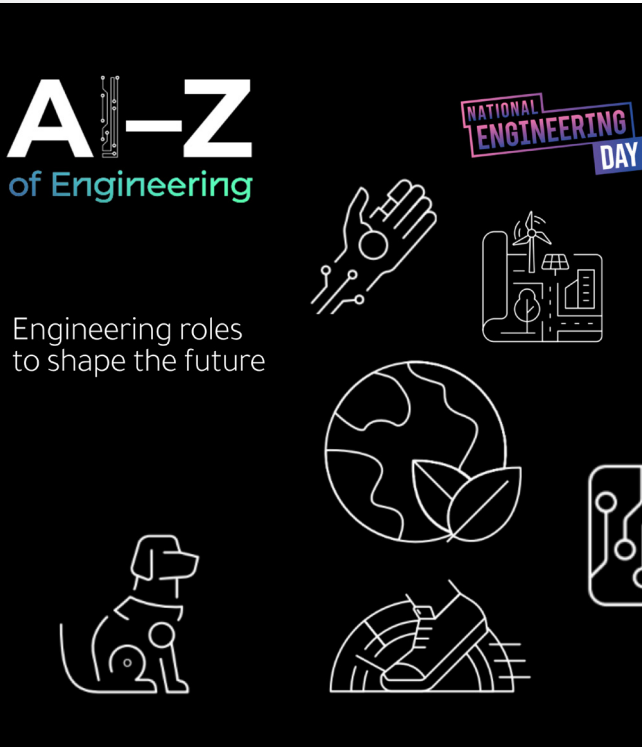
Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, *This is Engineering: Schools* is helping to inspire the next generation of engineers, broaden participation in STEM, and ensure more young people have the confidence and opportunity to pursue engineering careers.

“Over the course of the year, the department has significantly raised the profile of Engineering across the school by providing a wide range of engaging, practical and industry-linked experiences for pupils. These activities have helped establish Engineering as a modern, creative and exciting subject that develops problem-solving, teamwork, digital skills and innovation.”

Teacher at Islwyn High School

National Engineering Day 2025: re-engineering what it means to be an engineer

National Engineering Day 2025 brought together engineers, employers, educators and partners across the UK to celebrate the transformative role engineering plays in our everyday lives. The day aimed to make engineering more visible, and challenge outdated perceptions of what engineers do.



The 2025 theme, ‘Re-engineering what it means to be an engineer’, encouraged the public to look beyond traditional stereotypes and recognise the breadth, creativity and impact of modern engineering. From artificial intelligence and quantum technologies to sustainable design, healthcare innovation and space exploration, the campaign showcased how engineers are helping to shape the future.

We launched the A-Z of Engineering, an innovative online resource highlighting more than 100 current and future engineering roles. Created with engineers, the guide was designed to help young people and the wider public understand the diverse opportunities available in engineering and the vital role engineers play in tackling global challenges.

Thanks to the support of partners, educators and employers, National Engineering Day 2025 continued to inspire the next generation of engineers and strengthen public understanding of the profession’s importance to society, the economy and a sustainable future.

On National Engineering Day:

- News reached 954 million people across the UK.
- We hosted a parliamentary reception at the House of Lords, encouraging over 140 MPs and Peers to discover the spectrum of engineering through the A-Z of Engineering, and pledge to champion engineering and engineers in the future.
- Over 140 people from the engineering community joined in Parliament. At this event we launched the Engineers 2030 final report, along with its ten recommendations to develop engineers fit for the future.
- We attended No.10 Downing St for a roundtable focused on how we create engineers for the future, hosted by Secretary of State Liz Kendall and Science Minister Lord Vallance.
- Engaged 100+ members of the public through Innovation Late Liverpool, with 82% of attendees reporting a change in their understanding of engineering after the event.

National Engineering Day is funded by the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (DBIST), corporate partners and academic partners.



Attendees at a National Engineering Day event

Policy, public dialogue and shaping the future

Engineering expertise is helping to inform some of the UK's most significant policy decisions and public debates. In 2025, the National Engineering Policy Centre (NEPC) and the Academy continued to bring together policymakers, engineers, researchers and communities to address complex challenges and ensure that engineering insight helps shape a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future.

Reviving our ageing infrastructure report

The National Engineering Policy Centre's 2025 report, *Reviving our ageing infrastructure*, addressed one of the most pressing long-term challenges facing the UK. As climate change, urbanisation and growing demand place increasing strain on ageing transport, water, wastewater and flood defence systems, the report made the case for proactive stewardship of the infrastructure that underpins everyday life and economic prosperity. Drawing on expertise from across engineering, academia, industry and government, it identified seven key enablers of change and 15 urgent actions to help policymakers and asset owners improve resilience, reduce the risk of service failures and deliver better long-term value for the public.



Participants in the People's AI Stewardship Summit

Giving communities a voice in the future of AI

As artificial intelligence became increasingly embedded in everyday life, the People's AI Stewardship Summits provided a forum for communities across the UK to share their hopes, concerns and expectations for the technology's future. The final event in the series, held in London in July 2025, brought together members of the public, entrepreneurs, policymakers, academics and civil society organisations to explore how AI could be developed and used in ways that genuinely serve people and communities. Focusing on health and transportation, the summit placed local voices at the heart of the discussion, helping to ensure that public perspectives informed how AI is imagined, governed and deployed, while promoting a more inclusive, trusted and people-centred approach to innovation.

Driving better policy through engineering insight

The Policy Fellowships Programme continued to strengthen the links between engineering expertise and public policymaking in 2025, bringing together a growing community of leaders committed to tackling complex national challenges. Since launching in 2019, the programme has expanded to a network of 105 Policy Fellows working across government, public bodies, academia, industry and civil society, reflecting the increasing demand for systems thinking, engineering insight and cross-sector collaboration in policy development.

Throughout the year, Policy Fellows and Academy Fellows came together to explore complex policy challenges, including energy resilience, industrial strategy and regulatory innovation. Three roundtable events held in 2025 focused on sharing practical approaches to overcoming barriers to delivery.



Policy Fellowships showcase

The programme's impact can also be seen in the experiences of its Fellows. Abbie Badcock-Broe, Head of Corporate, UK and Decarbonisation Strategy at National Grid, said the programme rekindled her interest in complexity theory and systems thinking, helping to shape work within her area of the business. Reflecting on the connections she made through the programme, she described the experience as "career-enhancing", highlighting the lasting value of engaging with experts and peers from a wide range of sectors.

Through the programme, the Academy is helping to build a stronger policymaking ecosystem, equipped to address the economic, environmental and societal challenges of the future.



"I have always found engaging with Policy Fellows thought-provoking. I hope I have helped each Fellow to have a wider window on the world in terms of how policy impacts in the universities and in industry. In turn I have greatly appreciated gaining understanding of the pressures the Policy Fellows are working under and

the framework of their thinking. The Academy's Programme is hugely valuable."

Professor Dame Helen Atkinson DBE FEng
Deputy Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences, Cranfield University



Attendee at the Policy Fellowships Showcase

"The Policy Fellowship is transformative. Working with a fantastic cohort and team at the Royal Academy, I delved into an issue I care about and found new and exciting ways to approach problem-solving."

Louise Dunsby
Policy Fellow

How could AI benefit Swansea?
Watch the highlights of public opinions from the Swansea Summit:



Engineering X: tackling global safety and sustainability challenges



Male structural engineer in earthquake ruins © *This is Engineering*

Engineering X is a growing collaboration founded by the Royal Academy of Engineering and Lloyd's Register Foundation. Connected to thousands of entrepreneurs, experts, community leaders and policymakers across more than 40 countries, Engineering X is a trusted convener driving progress on some of the world's most pressing safety and sustainability challenges.

It convenes partners across entire systems to forge alliances, invests in the skills and institutions required to address capability gaps, and supports the piloting and scaling of solutions in real-world settings, helping translate evidence into practice, policy, and standards.

Engineering X is currently working on four missions:

- safer complex systems
- safer end of engineered life
- skills for safety
- transforming systems through partnership

These programmes work on root causes, not just symptoms. In the past two years, Engineering X has passed a landmark resolution to end open burning of waste in Africa by 2030 at the United Nations Environment Programme; produced the largest global data set on engineering capability and safety; and formed the first global committee working on end of life of offshore wind.

Engineering X operates at the intersection of safety and sustainability, policy change and practical action.

Leaving a legacy for future generations

Legacy gifts are among the most powerful investments in the future of engineering at the Academy. They enable us to plan with confidence, take a long-term view of the challenges facing society, and ensure that future generations of engineers have the support they need to create positive change.

Throughout our 50-year history, legacies have played a vital role in strengthening the Academy's work. These generous gifts have supported education programmes, innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership development, helping talented engineers turn ambition into achievement and ensuring that engineering expertise continues to benefit society.

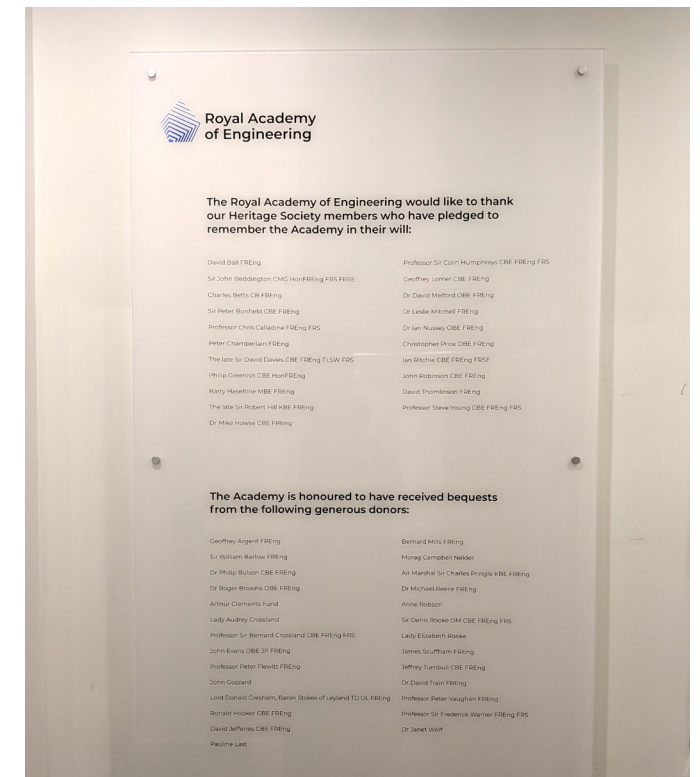
This year, we were deeply grateful to receive bequests from several supporters whose generosity, through the Prince Philip Fund, will help inspire young people, support emerging engineering leaders and advance research and innovation.

We are also thankful to our Heritage Society members who have informed us that they have left a bequest to the Academy, as well as those who choose to remain anonymous. Many of these members have had longstanding connections with the Academy, whether as Fellows, programme participants, donors or friends. Their commitment reflects a shared belief that engineering has a critical role to play in building a more sustainable, resilient and prosperous world.

To recognise this extraordinary generosity, the Academy recently unveiled a new legacy recognition board at Prince Philip House [pictured]. The display celebrates both the Heritage Society members and those whose bequests are already helping to shape the future of engineering.

As we look ahead to the Academy's next 50 years, legacy giving will remain an important part of our long-term planning.

To everyone who has remembered the Academy in their will, and to those considering doing so, thank you. Your generosity will create opportunities, inspire innovation and leave a lasting legacy for the future of engineering.



Heritage Society recognition board in Prince Philip House

Visit our website:
www.raeng.org.uk/leave-a-legacy



Alternatively, contact us to request our Legacy Giving Guide, which provides information on legacy planning and the support we can offer throughout the process.

Thank you from our CEO

As Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Engineering, I would like to express my sincere thanks for your generosity and commitment to our mission.

The stories and achievements throughout this report demonstrate the extraordinary impact that philanthropy makes possible. Your support enables us to invest in engineering talent, advance innovation, foster inclusive opportunities and help address some of society's most pressing challenges. In a rapidly changing world, your generosity provides the confidence and flexibility we need to respond to emerging opportunities and deliver lasting public benefit.

What stands out most is the strength of our Academy community. Together, our Fellows, donors, partners, awardees and staff are helping to engineer better lives in the UK and around the world. Your support not only enables our work, but strengthens our ability to bring together expertise, ideas and leadership to tackle complex challenges and inspire positive change.

Having joined the Academy during this landmark 50th anniversary year, I have been inspired by the commitment of our supporters and the impact philanthropy has had throughout our history.



As we continue to deliver our Strategy 2030, Engineering Better Lives, we remain focused on building a sustainable and innovative economy, ensuring technology improves lives, and nurturing an engineering community fit for the future. Supporters like you are essential to achieving these ambitions.

Looking ahead, I am confident that the Academy will continue to be a powerful force for public benefit, driving innovation, widening participation, shaping policy and supporting the people and ideas that will help create a more sustainable, resilient and prosperous future.

On behalf of everyone at the Academy, thank you for your support and for being part of our journey. We are deeply grateful for your belief in the power of engineering and technology to improve lives and create opportunities for generations to come.

With best wishes,

Dame Tamara Finkelstein DCB
CEO, Royal Academy of Engineering

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team via email to: development.team@raeng.org.uk.

We'd love to hear from you.



The Royal Academy of Engineering creates and leads a community of outstanding experts and innovators to engineer better lives.

As a charity and a Fellowship, we deliver public benefit from excellence in engineering and technology and convene leading businesspeople, entrepreneurs, innovators and academics from every part of the profession. As a National Academy, we provide leadership for engineering and technology, and independent, expert advice to policymakers in the UK and beyond.

The world is changing rapidly, with economies, supply chains and security critically dependent on engineering capability. Engineers are uniquely placed to respond to that change and innovate solutions to the challenges it presents. Working in collaboration with our partners and the profession, we aim to connect public voices to our programmes and unlock greater societal value from technology.

We have three goals:



Sustainable and Innovative Economy, where sustainability drivers, innovative industries and resilient infrastructures are aligned to drive growth and productivity that will support better lives for all.



Technology Improving Lives, where technology in all its forms is used to meet the most important human needs, avoid harm, support fairer societies and break down barriers to opportunity.



Engineering Community Fit for the Future, where our community reflects society in its diversity, commits to creating inclusive cultures to help drive engineering excellence, and has the skills to meet future needs safely, securely and ethically, and to keep pace with innovation.

Our work is enabled by funding from the Department for Business, Innovation, Science, and Trade, corporate and university partners, charitable trusts and foundations, and individual donors.

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