

MEDIA RELEASE
29TH APRIL 2008

**FIRST MEETING OF HIGH LEVEL EDUCATION AND SKILLS PANEL
TO ADVISE THE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY BOARD (ETB)**

Today, the Engineering and Technology Board (ETB)'s new 15-strong Education and Skills Panel met for the first time under the Chairmanship of Professor Christopher Snowden, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Surrey.

This new high-level Education and Skills Panel will advise the ETB on promoting and enhancing engineering and technology education and training at all levels, by:

- Providing guidance on matters related to STEM Education & Skills.
- Providing insight, advice and future strategic options on the supply and demand of STEM skills in order to enable it to make well informed decisions.
- Acting as ambassadors and lobbyists on behalf of the Engineering and Technology Board within Government, schools, HE/FE, SSC's, Regional Development Agencies, Employers and other relevant stakeholders.
- Supporting and receiving relevant updates and reports on ETB projects.
- Helping access potential partnership funding and/ or support for relevant future ETB activity regarding education and skills.

Professor Derek Bell, Chief Executive of the Association for Science Education, is the Panel's Vice Chair.

The other thirteen panellists are: Professor Helen Atkinson, Dr Christine Braddock, Sir Anthony Cleaver, William Divine, Dame Ann Dowling, Professor Kel Fidler, Bob Gibbon, Richard Green, Bill Harrison; Professor John Holman, Professor Sir John O'Reilly, Professor Baroness Diana Warwick and Professor John Wood. Dr Anil Kumar, the ETB's Director of Education and Skills is providing the Secretariat. (More information on the panel members can be found below.)

Sir Anthony Cleaver, Chairman of the ETB, said:

'We have convened this high-level Education and Skills Panel to encourage and facilitate better co-ordination across Professional Engineering Institutions, education and training providers and the engineering community as a whole. We believe the Panel's depth and breadth of experience will enhance the ETB's contribution to improving education and skills provision for the benefit of UK Plc.'

Professor Snowden, Chair of the Education and Skills Panel, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Surrey, said:

'I am delighted to Chair the Engineering and Technology Board's Education and Skills Panel, providing guidance, advice and future direction on STEM Education & Skills.'

Notes to Editors

1) The Engineering and Technology Board (ETB)

The ETB is an independent organisation that promotes the vital role of engineers, engineering and technology in our society. The ETB partners business and industry, government and the wider STEM community: producing evidence on the state of engineering, and inspiring young people to choose a career in engineering, matching employers' demand for skills. For more information about the ETB please visit www.eteachb.co.uk

2) Education and Skills Panel:

The Education and Skills Panel consists of the following:

Chairman

Prof Christopher Snowden, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Surrey.

Vice Chairman

Prof Derek Bell, Chief Executive, the Association for Science Education

Members

Prof Helen Atkinson, Head of Mechanics of Materials – Dept of Engineering, University of Leicester

Dr Christine Braddock, Principal and Chief Executive, Matthew Boulton College

Sir Anthony Cleaver, Chairman, The Engineering and Technology Board

Mr William Devine, Chief Executive, NFEC

Dame Ann Dowling, Professor of Engineering, University of Cambridge

Prof Kel Fidler, Chairman, Engineering Council UK

Mr Bob Gibbon, Chief Executive, National Skills Academy for Manufacturing

Mr Richard Green, Chief Executive, Design and Technology Association

Mr Bill Harrison, Careers Co-ordinator, National STEM Programme

Prof John Holman, Director, National STEM Programme

Prof Sir John O'Reilly, Vice Chancellor, Cranfield University

Baroness Diana Warwick, Chief Executive, UniversitiesUK

Prof John Wood, Principal – Faculty of Engineering, Imperial College

ETB Staff

Dr John Morton, Chief Executive, the Engineering and Technology Board

Mr Adrian Talbot, Products and Services Director, The Engineering and Technology Board

Secretary

Dr Anil Kumar, Director – Education and Skills, the Engineering and Technology Board

3) Professor Christopher Snowden

Professor Snowden is Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Surrey.

Prior to his current appointment, he was Chief Executive Officer of Filtronic Plc, the UK's most successful university spin-out company with 18 operations world-wide and sales of over \$450 million. He has also held posts as Professor of Microwave Engineering at the University of Leeds and a Visiting Professor in Physics at the University of Durham. He has held a personal Chair of Microwave Engineering at the University of Leeds since 1992, and during the period of 1995-1998 he was Head of the School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering.

Professor Snowden is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, and of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers (IEE).

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