



**MEDIA RELEASE
5 AUGUST 2009**

**GOOD NEWS FOR ENGINEERING AS PARTICIPATION AND ENTRY LEVELS UP
FOR PHYSICS AND MATHS HIGHERS**

Nearly 160,000 school pupils across Scotland have received their examination results today, and there is good news for engineering subjects as entry levels for both Advanced Physics and Advanced Maths Highers have gone up by ten percent.

Though the picture is undoubtedly a complex one, there are some clear encouraging signs with a seven percent increase in female entrants for Higher Level Physics, a twelve percent overall increase in entrants for Advanced Higher Level Computing and passes in Advanced Higher Level Computing rising by six percentage points. This is particularly encouraging in addressing the wider UK context, with universities and employers facing shortages in science and technology qualified females.

In the light of the increased number of young people taking many science subjects, the ETB have identified a focus on improved pass rates as being the next step in increasing the supply of well qualified scientists and engineers in Scotland.

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of the ETB, said: "Though we must not be complacent as there are still issues to address, young people have clearly demonstrated their appreciation of the value and importance of science and technology subjects. These new qualifications will provide them with great opportunities and are vital for the future health of the UK's science and engineering base. Having seen increases in the number of entrants for many science subjects the next step is to look at pass rates and ensure that as many young people as possible are getting these qualifications."

Notes to Editors

1.) The Engineering and Technology Board (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 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. For more information about the ETB please visit www.etechnology.co.uk.

**For further information please contact:
Laura Marsh, Senior Communications Executive, the ETB**

Tel: 020 3206 0444 or (m) 07887 943 017
Email: Imarsh@etechb.co.uk