

Media Release

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YOUNG ENGINEERS TO THE RESCUE OF STRICKEN CARGO SHIP

Thirty Teams from Across the UK Compete in 2008 RN Challenge

Thirty teams of young engineers from schools across the UK took part in the 2008 final of the Royal Navy Challenge at HMS SULTAN in Gosport, Hampshire last Thursday, with Kingston Grammar School from Surrey and John Hampden Grammar School, from High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire respectively scooping the £500 top prizes in the 15-18 and 12-15 age groups.

Called 'Operation Wave Rider', the RN Challenge final asked the teams of young engineers to mastermind the salvage of vital cargo from a merchant vessel that had capsized and sunk in the South Atlantic. In the imaginary event, which was simulated in specially constructed water tanks, a new Royal Navy Type 45 destroyer, HMS DEFENDER was responding to a Mayday message that she received whilst on patrol.

Although her crew were all safe, the partially submerged hull of the stricken merchant vessel was a hazard to shipping and her cargo of containers was either floating in the

shallows, sitting on the seabed or, had been washed up on land. The Royal Navy called in Young Engineers to assist the crew of HMS DEFENDER in recovering these important containers.

“The event certainly provided the teams with a stiff challenge” said Captain Stuart Ellins, CEO of the Young Engineers organisation, “Not only did they have to design and build their own radio controlled vessels to recover both floating and submerged containers, but their vessels had to have all terrain vehicles on board that could be disembarked onto the beach to recover washed up containers. We saw some amazing craft and lifting gear employed and it was fantastic to watch them in operation”.

“You only had to see the concentration on the faces of contestants and hear the whoops of joy when they succeeded to realise just how effective this event was in exciting young people about engineering.”

An Exciting and Educational Day

All finalists in the RN challenge were able also to enjoy a flight over Portsmouth Harbour and the Solent in a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter between judging sessions, whilst dozens of local school children were invited to watch the challenge unfold and try their hands on the many other supporting attractions, all designed to demonstrate the fun and excitement of engineering. Some of the teams, from as far afield as Thurso in the North of Scotland, spent the preceding night aboard HMS Bristol, a Royal Navy destroyer.

“What an amazing day!” commented member of the organising committee, Lieutenant Andrew McAllister. “The Royal Navy has been wowed by the teamwork and ingenuity shown by schools and is very encouraged at the engineering skills and awareness that they displayed”. Finalists and visiting schools were unanimous in their praise for the event.

Challenge Results

Commodore Al Rymer Royal Navy, Commanding Officer of HMS SULTAN presented the trophies and prizes, ranging from £150-£500 to the winning schools:

Prize	Age Group	Position	School Name	Town, County	Team Name
Overall Mission Completion - Advanced	1	First	Kingston Grammar School	Kingston, Surrey	HMS Salvage
Overall Mission Completion - Advanced	1	Second	Dyffryn Taf School	Whitland, Carmarthenshire	Team Dragon
Overall Mission Completion - Advanced	1	Third	Ardingly College	Haywards Heath, West Sussex	PSC
Overall Mission Completion - Advanced	2	First	John Hampden Grammar School	High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire	The Hampden Hammers
Overall Mission Completion - Novice	1	First	Lochaber High School	Fort William, Inverness-shire	New-clear
Overall Mission Completion - Novice	2	First	Bancrofts School	Woodford Green, Essex	The Retriever
Best Overall Design and Construction	1	First	Ardingly College	Haywards Heath, West Sussex	PSC
Best Overall Design and Construction	2	First	John Hampden Grammar School	High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire	The Hampden Hammers
Best Presentation	1	First	Keswick School	Keswick, Cumbria	Dark Depth

Best Presentation	2	First	John Hampden Grammar School	High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire	The Hampden Hammers
Best Mission Team Disguise	1	First	Dyffryn Taf School	Whitland, Carmarthenshire	Team Dragon
Best Mission Team Disguise	2	First	John Hampden Grammar School	High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire	The Hampden Hammers
Titanic Effort Award	1 or 2	First	Lochaber High School	Fort William, Inverness-shire	R2-A2

The Royal Naval Challenge is generously supported not only by the Royal Navy, but also by the wider maritime industry and is organised every year by Young Engineers (www.youngeng.org), a registered charity, which operates a nationwide network of over 1500 active Young Engineers Clubs with more than 20,000 members. The organisation forms a core constituent of the Royal Academy of Engineering's BEST programme.

For further information, please contact

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Notes to editors...

About Young Engineers

Participation in Young Engineers stimulates interest, appreciation and engagement in the practical application of engineering and technology by young people in primary and secondary education. It enables volunteer teachers and their supporters to provide exciting, challenging and creative activities that enrich the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) curriculum.

Central to Young Engineers' operations is its growing nationwide network of after school engineering clubs, which form a core constituent of the Royal Academy of Engineering's Best Programme. The network is funded and supported entirely by industry and professional institutions and is endorsed by Government. Patron is HRH The Duke of York, KG, KCVO, ADC.

National sponsors are Lloyd's Register Educational Trust, BAA, the Royal Navy and Airbus; other key sponsors include ARM, Arup, Cobham plc, EBV Elektronik, STMicroelectronics, National Grid, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), Rolls-Royce, the Royal Airforce, Hasbro, BNFL, Thales, the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation, Sea Vision UK and Rapid.

The Young Engineers website: www.youngeng.org provides a virtual community for teachers engaged in STEM education and offers them an invaluable resource, loaded with information and hands-on engineering activities designed both to inspire students' minds and develop their know-how.

An exciting programme of challenges and competitions is organized each year to create excitement and to help develop communications, literacy and numeracy skills both individually and as part of a team. This programme includes Young Engineer for Britain, the Royal Navy Challenge, the BAA Challenge, the Airbus Challenge and the K'Nex Challenge. Success in each brings rich rewards in prizes and prestige for both the school and the student, which often creates a life changing experience.