

Media Release

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DR MAGGIE ADERIN BECOMES YOUNG ENGINEERS TRUSTEE

Top female space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin has joined the Young Engineers Board of Trustees.

A regular broadcaster on scientific matters, Dr Aderin currently heads up the optical instrumentation group at Portsmouth-based Atrium Ltd, which builds equipment to monitor the variables of climate change. She studied at Imperial College where she obtained a degree in Physics and PhD in Mechanical Engineering. She also has a fellowship at UCL (University College London), sponsored by the Science and Technology Facilities Council and has her own company, Science Innovation Ltd, which conducts "Tours of the Universe" to engage school children and adults around the world in the wonders of space.

"We feel very privileged to have Maggie's inspiration and influence on our Board", said Kenneth Sanders, Chairman of the Trustees. "She brings a wealth of experience in gaining the attention of young people through her enthusiasm and she is passionate about the importance of engaging them in engineering and science."

Dr Aderin first became interested in science and engineering at the early age of 6 and made her first telescope at just 15. "I could see the craters of the Moon, Mars and Saturn's rings through something I'd made with my own hands," she said. Two decades later this inspired her to become one of the brains behind the James Webb Space Telescope that will replace Hubble in 2013 and among other notable events to work with the Ministry of Defence developing missile warning systems and a ground penetrating radar-based landmine detector.

For further information, please contact

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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 forms 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 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.