



Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) sponsors 2011 IET Young Woman Engineer Awards

GCHQ is a sponsor of the 2011 Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET) Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards, which celebrate the excellence of young women in the engineering, science and technology industries.

The IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards are made up of three coveted prizes that recognise the very best female engineers under the age of 30 working in the UK today. Each an industry recognised award in itself, the Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards seek to highlight and celebrate the achievements of young women in engineering and aim to inspire others to enter the profession.

The winners are announced at an exclusive awards ceremony. This year's award ceremony will take place on Thursday 1st December at IET London: Savoy Place.

"We are delighted to have GCHQ on board as an award sponsor, as they share the IET's aim in encouraging more young women into the engineering and technology sector" says Linda Deleay, Awards and Prizes Manager at The IET.

A GCHQ spokesperson said: *"GCHQ is 100% committed to improving diversity within its workforce. Like many technical organisations we struggle to recruit enough female engineers and technologists. This is predominantly down to the lack of female representation in the sector. GCHQ acknowledges the excellent efforts of the IET to encourage young women engineers/technologists and is proud to be a sponsor of this year's awards. We wish all the nominees good luck!"*

Too few women currently enter the engineering profession. The IET's survey of engineering and technology companies found that 10% of engineering apprentices, 4% of engineering technicians and 5% of professional engineers currently working in industry are female.

The lack of women in engineering is a significant problem. The engineering sector suffers significant skills shortages. Attracting more women into engineering will help address skills shortages and boost the UK economy.

The IET, in partnership with others, is taking a range of measures to increase the number of women in engineering, including the Young Woman Engineer of the Year award.

Notes to Editors:

About Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)

The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) is one of the UK's intelligence and security agencies. Based in Cheltenham (Gloucestershire), GCHQ plays a crucial role in countering threats to British people and interests by producing Signals Intelligence and delivering Information Assurance services. GCHQ also hosts the UK's Cyber Security Operations Centre (CSOC), through which expertise is concentrated on understanding threats and opportunities in cyber space.

GCHQ is at the forefront of technical innovation and offers a range of IT, Internet and engineering career options.

For more information, please visit: www.gchq-careers.co.uk

About IET Awards & Scholarships

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is Europe's largest professional engineering organisation, sharing and advancing knowledge to promote science, engineering and technology across the world. Part of its remit is promoting, recognising and rewarding excellence and it does this through four awards programmes: The Ambition Awards, Achievement Awards, Innovation Awards and Young Woman Engineer Awards.

The IET Ambition Awards programme includes a range of undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, competitions and travel awards encouraging young people to enter the engineering and technology profession and providing financial support throughout university. The IET Achievement Awards recognise the exceptional achievements of individuals working in the engineering and technology profession. The IET Innovation Awards celebrate the products, technologies and processes that lead the way in engineering innovation. The IET Young Woman Engineer Awards recognise and promote women in engineering and technology and encourage more women to join the profession.

The IET provides around £200,000 every year in awards and scholarships.

For more information, please visit: www.theiet.org/ywe