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**Renishaw engineer shortlisted for Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards**

A female engineer who joined Renishaw as an apprentice aged just 16 has been shortlisted for a prestigious engineering industry award, which aims to banish outdated engineering stereotypes and help change the perception that engineering is only a career for men.

Lucy Ackland (26), a Project Manager in [Renishaw’s Additive Manufacturing Products Division](http://www.renishaw.com/en/additive-manufacturing-metal-3d-printing--15239) working on the company’s next generation of metal 3D printing machines, has been shortlisted for the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Young Woman of the Year Awards.

She started her career as a mechanical engineering apprentice and has progressed through a variety of roles whilst being supported by Renishaw to achieve further engineering qualifications on a day release basis. In 2012 she achieved a first class honours degree in mechanical and manufacturing engineering from the University of South Wales, and in 2014 she was appointed a Board member of the charity [Young Engineers](http://www.youngeng.org/).

The IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards aim to find female role models to help address the UK science and engineering skills crisis. Lucy Ackland has been shortlisted along with four female engineers from other leading engineering organisations – Ford, Rolls-Royce, ABB Ltd and Selex ES.

Lucy said: “I am thrilled to have made it this far in a competition that includes so many brilliant high achieving females.”

“At the age of 13 I was inspired to become an engineer and despite some opposition from those who felt that I should follow a more academic route, I chose to apply for an apprenticeship. I hope that my progress and academic achievements since then can similarly help to inspire other young people to consider engineering as an attractive career option.”

Women currently represent only 6 per cent of the engineering workforce in the UK (source: 2014 IET Skills Survey), the lowest percentage in Europe.

Michelle Richmond, IET Director of Membership, and a former YWE winner, said: “The lack of women in engineering is a huge problem for this country, contributing to skills shortages which threaten the economy. It also means that women are missing out on interesting and rewarding careers.

“The difficulty in attracting women into engineering is down to a combination of things: from the careers advice girls are given in schools, to schools not instilling girls with the confidence to opt for science and maths at A-level, through to employers needing to do more to make their approach to recruitment and retention more female friendly.”

“It’s also a result of the lack of inspirational engineering role models for girls – which is where our Young Woman Engineer of the Year winners can play a vital role by encouraging and inspiring more young girls to become engineers.”

The winner will be announced at the IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year Awards ceremony on 10 December in central London.  For more information, visit [www.theiet.org/ywe](http://www.theiet.org/ywe).

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**Notes to editors**

**Lucy Ackland**

During her day job Lucy co-ordinates a research and development team to achieve new technologies within additive manufacturing. She was seconded to this relatively new Division to help implement a new product development process for a next generation machine that will ensure timescales, quality and customer requirements are met. Her role covers all aspects of design, from product concept to testing and preparation for production.

With a strong passion for engineering, Lucy has always been keen to promote engineering to young people, especially females. Over many years she has run after-school engineering clubs, performed media work for Renishaw, judged STEM club projects, organised and spoken at seminars targeting young people and run hands-on activities for local schools. Lucy is a STEM ambassador, and a director/trustee of Young Engineers, a charity that believes that the best way to encourage young people into engineering is through hands on activities.

In her spare time Lucy enjoys travelling, walking, participating in and watching sports and attending live music events.

**Renishaw**

Renishaw is a world leading engineering technologies company, supplying products used for applications as diverse as jet engine and wind turbine manufacture, through to dentistry and brain surgery. It employs over 3500 people globally, some 2,300 of which are located at its 15 sites in the UK, plus over 1,200 staff located in the 32 countries where it has wholly owned subsidiary operations.

For the year ended June 2014 Renishaw recorded sales of £355.5 million of which 93% was due to exports. The company's largest markets are the USA, China, Germany and Japan.

The Company's success has been recognised with numerous international awards, including seventeen Queen's Awards recognising achievements in technology, export and innovation. For more information visit [www.renishaw.com](http://www.renishaw.com)