



## **Young engineers and scientists of the North-East commended for their achievements**

### **For Immediate Release:**

Around 100 school pupils from 17 local schools got stuck into science and engaged in engineering at the North-East Celebration of Engineering and Science at Aberdeen Science Centre. (Friday 24th March)

The Celebration was organised by Young Engineers and Science Clubs (YESC) - a project of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) - and partnered by Shell U.K. Limited and BP. It marks the fourth regional heat across the country in March which aim to identify Scotland's brightest budding young engineers and scientists

The event also featured the regional finals of the exciting new engineering challenge launched by YESC this year – Construct a Crane, supported by EnerMech. Schools from Shetland to Dumfries have been receiving free kits to design and build a working crane. Over two hundred schools will have their engineering know-how put to the test in a bid to identify the best design.

The exciting Celebration was bustling with teachers and schools who impressed as they showcased their project work, competed for exciting prizes and took part in fun, hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges set by industry partners that were also at hand to explain the many career opportunities in their industries. The pupils also enjoyed a Science Show laid on by Aberdeen Science Centre and fun physics busking activities delivered by volunteers from the Institute of Physics.

Jane Martin, Programme Director of Young Engineers and Science Clubs said: "YESC is all about sparking interest in science and engineering at a young age and it's fabulous to see the range of innovative school projects on show today and to celebrate pupils' achievements."

The coveted Primary and Secondary Regional Club of the Year titles, saw winning Kingswells Primary and Torry Academy receive £250 each, awarded by Alex Baird, Northern Systems and Plants Manager, Shell U.K. Limited and Neal Wannell, ACE Process Engineer, BP.

The Construct a Crane challenge prizes were awarded to Tullos Primary and Portlethen Academy, both winning a trophy, certificate and £100.

The STEM Challenge Primary winner was St Joseph's Primary and Alford Academy won the Secondary title. Both schools were also awarded a trophy, certificate and £100.

Alex Baird, Northern Systems & Plants Manager at Shell U.K. Limited said: "Today's event highlights not only the enormous amount of talented young engineers and scientists in the area, but the enthusiasm and excitement they have for the subjects. Shell's work in partnership with the SCDI Young Engineers and Science Clubs plays a critical role in providing resources to schools across Scotland that will ensure a new generation will continue Scotland's legacy of innovation in science and engineering industries. Congratulations are due to the participating pupils and teachers for their obvious hard work on these great projects."

Neal Wannell, ACE Process Engineer at BP said "BP is delighted to once again support the SCDI's Young Engineers and Science Clubs initiative, which offers a diverse programme of activity, events and challenging projects. Developing future capability and talent in STEM is key for the success of our industry going forward and, as always, this year's event delivered a range of fun activities designed to stimulate an interest in these vital

subjects. Well done to all the pupils and their teachers for putting in so much effort and showing such enthusiasm.”

YESC supports over 120 schools in Aberdeen City and Shire with grants and resources to help nurture Scotland’s next generation of scientists and engineers. The Clubs are supported locally by Shell U.K. Limited and BP as well as many private and public sector partners.

## **ENDS**

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### **Notes**

#### **Participating schools/clubs:**

Alford Academy  
Clerkhill Primary  
Hazlehead Academy  
Kingswells Primary  
Kittybrewster Primary  
Minds Applying Science  
Newtonhill Primary  
Peterhead Academy  
Porthlethen Academy  
Riverbank Primary  
Robert Gordon’s College  
St Joseph’s RC Primary  
St Peter’s RC Primary  
Torry Academy  
Tullos Primary  
Tullynessle School

#### **Participating companies:**

BP  
BT Scotland  
Chevron  
Institute of Physics  
Lloyd’s Register EMEA  
Royal Navy  
Shell U.K. Limited  
Taq  
Wood Group  
Vattenfall

#### **About SCDI Young Engineers and Science Clubs**

SCDI is Scotland's leading independent economic development organisation representing 1,200 companies, SMEs, public sector bodies, charities, trade unions and faith groups.

Since 1986, the Scottish Council for Development and Industry has pioneered the Young Engineers & Science Clubs programme throughout Scotland. Over 1400 schools are in its network, engaging over 30,000 school pupils. The aim of the Clubs is to engage and excite young people about science, engineering and technology by encouraging them to exercise their creative, problem-solving, team-working and innovative skills through exciting, hands-on projects. [www.yescotland.co.uk](http://www.yescotland.co.uk) @scdiYESC