

# SIMPLY THE BEST – AWARD WINNERS NAMED



**Above:** Peter Wherritt shows off TSSI Systems' Security award, flanked by QinetiQ's Dolores Byrne (l) and event host Kate Bellingham (r)

**SOME OF THE BEST** new ideas in engineering won formal recognition last month at the presentation of the IEE's first ever Innovation in Engineering Awards.

Winners, who received a specially commissioned IEE trophy, were chosen in 13 areas of activity for their development of a product or process that demonstrated genuine novelty, technical advance and the prospect of real benefits to the industry, their business or wider society. In addition there was a special Flipside award sponsored by the IEE's magazine for young people.

Entries for the awards came from around the world and from many sources – businesses large and small, universities and individuals – and were described by IEE chief executive Dr Alf Roberts as being of a very high standard, leading to "some very difficult judgements".

Around 300 people from the short-listed organisations, judging panels and sponsoring companies attended the

awards ceremony at Savoy Place in London on 14 September; on the first evening of the Commercialising Technology and Innovation conference. The event consisted of a champagne reception, the presentations and a dinner in the Riverside dining room.

The formal part of the proceedings was hosted by Kate Bellingham, best known as a presenter of science and technology television programmes but also an engineer and a member of the IEE. Describing herself as "proud to be an engineer in such distinguished company and proud that it is the IEE – my own Institution – that has instigated these awards", she spoke about the importance of innovation for business and the economy before adding: "it's also, really exciting, challenging and a rewarding thing to do".

That message, she commented, was an important one to pass on to the next generation. "Young people need to see that innovative engineers are valued, not just by engineers but by society," she said.

## THE WINNERS

**IT** (Sponsored by Sony Vaio):  
MXF Express, enabling common multimedia file format – Snell & Wilcox

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

(Sponsored by Marconi):  
Fastnets: Video streaming over GPRS – BT Research & Venturing

### SECURITY

(Sponsored by QinetiQ):  
World's smallest fingerprint template – TSSI Systems Ltd

### ELECTRONICS

(Sponsored by Mentor Graphics):  
High availability GPS for emergency services – QinetiQ

### ELECTRICAL TECHNOLOGIES

(Sponsored by Cambridge Consultants):  
A novel RF plasma reactor – University of Oxford

### ROBOTICS & CONTROL

(Sponsored by National Instruments):  
Snake-arm robots – OC Robotics

### MANUFACTURING

(Sponsored by RS Components):  
Failsafe metering technology – Failsafe Metering International Ltd

### TRANSPORT

(Sponsored by IEE Publications):  
Improved signal decoder for air traffic monitoring – Raytheon Systems Ltd

### POWER

(Sponsored by Siemens):  
Fuel cell battery charger – Voller Energy Ltd

### SUSTAINABILITY

(Sponsored by ABB):  
Returnable packaging – Management Investment & Technology Company

### PROJECT TEAM

(Sponsored by Areva):  
Capability through partnering – NITEworks

### EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

(Sponsored by Anglia Components):  
Microdisplay – MicroEmissive Displays Ltd

### PRODUCT DESIGN

(Sponsored by BT):  
Rural digital link – Tait Electronics

### FLIPSIDE AWARD

(Sponsored by IEE Flipside):  
Bridging the gap between technology and people – Edward Smith