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Media Information

World-class Award for *E*-Pioneers

Some of the world's most phenomenal Scientists and Engineers are to be set what many may see as an impossible challenge. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), Wolfson Microelectronics plc and The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) have teamed-up to create an annual, international award to encourage and reward transforming developments in electronics and electrical engineering or related fields which are profoundly improving people's lives. The scale of the challenge lies in the identity of the pioneering Scottish Scientist whom the prize commemorates - James Clerk Maxwell. A hero of Einstein's and the man who laid the foundations for almost all aspects of communications central to the way we live our lives today, Clerk Maxwell will be no easy act to follow.

President of The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Sir Michael Atiyah, said:

Maxwell ranks with Einstein as one of the founders of modern Physics and deserves much greater recognition in Scotland that he has previously received. This is the 175th anniversary of Maxwell's birth and I am delighted that the IEEE is joining forces with the RSE and Wolfson Microelectronics to create this significant new international award which recognises Maxwell's contribution to the whole of modern technology.

The exceptional winner of The *IEEE/RSE James Clerk Maxwell Award* will receive a \$20,000 prize and a prestigious gold medal. The new award is being funded by Wolfson Microelectronics, a global leader in the supply of high performance mixed-signal chips for the digital consumer market. Wolfson's global headquarters are in Edinburgh, Maxwell's place of birth.

David Milne, CEO of Wolfson Microelectronics plc, commented:

Maxwell made a tremendous contribution to maths, astronomy and engineering, and is considered by many to be the father of electromagnetic theory. Wolfson is delighted to pay tribute to his remarkable legacy by supporting this award. It is essential that we encourage and reward the best international work in electronics and electrical engineering in order to encourage potential engineers and support the Maxwells of the future.

Seeking world-class competition, we are spreading the net wide – worldwide and there are no restrictions as to race, gender or age. The *IEEE/RSE James Clerk Maxwell Award* will be presented at the prestigious IEEE Honors Ceremony in the USA. The winner will also discuss their outstanding work at a high profile event in Scotland.

Notes for Editors

For Media information, please contact:

Stuart Brown
PR & Communications Manager
The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)
T. 0131 240 5000
F. 0131 240 5024
Mob. 077 11 710 249
e sbrown@royalsoced.org.uk
www.royalsoced.org.uk

Photograph

The attached image of Professor David Milne, CEO of Wolfson Microelectronics plc., may be used without any charge. Please credit *Image: Wolfson Microelectronics plc.*

The IEEE/RSE James Clerk Maxwell Award

Award Nominations

Nominations will be invited by the IEEE and RSE through national and international notices.

Judges

A joint IEEE/RSE James Clerk Maxwell Award Selection Committee will select the winner.

Further information will be posted on the RSE and IEEE's websites:

www.royalsoced.org.uk

www.ieee.org

James Clerk Maxwell

Maxwell's contributions, and in particular his famous equations, have laid the foundations of electromagnetic wave theory, radio propagation, microwave techniques and the foundations of today's communications technology. For more information on activities in Maxwell Year see: Shortcut to: <http://www.maxwellyear2006.org/>

The IEEE

The IEEE, a non-profit organisation, is the world's leading professional association for the advancement of technology. The full name of the IEEE is the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., although the organization is referred to by the letters I-E-E-E and pronounced Eye-triple-E. Through its global membership, the IEEE is a leading authority on areas ranging from aerospace systems, computers and telecommunications to biomedical engineering, electric power and consumer electronics among others. Members rely on the IEEE

as a source of technical and professional information, resources and services. To foster an interest in the engineering profession, the IEEE also serves student members in colleges and universities around the world. Other important constituencies include prospective members and organizations that purchase IEEE products and participate in conferences or other IEEE programs. The IEEE has:

- ◆ more than 365,000 members, including 68,000 students, in over 150 countries.
- ◆ 311 sections in ten geographic regions worldwide.
- ◆ about 1,570 chapters that unite local members with similar technical interests.
- ◆ more than 1,430 student branches at colleges and universities in 80 countries.
- ◆ 39 societies and 5 technical councils representing the wide range of technical interests.
- ◆ 128 transactions, journals and magazines.
- ◆ more than 300 conferences worldwide each year.
- ◆ about 900 active IEEE standards and more than 400 in development.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is an educational charity, registered in Scotland. Independent and non-party-political, we are working to provide Public benefit throughout Scotland and by means of a growing international Programme. The RSE has a peer-elected, multidisciplinary Fellowship of 1400 Men and women who are experts within their fields. We seek to provide public benefit in today's Scotland by:

- ◆ Organising lectures, debates and conferences on topical issues of lasting importance
- ◆ Conducting independent inquiries on matters of national and international importance
- ◆ Providing educational activities for primary and secondary school students throughout Scotland
- ◆ Distributing over £1.7 million to top researchers and entrepreneurs working in Scotland
- ◆ Showcasing the best of Scotland's research and development capabilities to the rest of the World
- ◆ Facilitating Scotland's international collaboration in research and enterprise
- ◆ Awarding prizes and medals

Wolfson Microelectronics plc

Wolfson Microelectronics plc is a leading global provider of high performance, mixed-signal semiconductors for digital consumer electronics applications.

Renowned worldwide for its audio and imaging technologies, Wolfson devices can be found at the heart of many of the world's highest profile consumer products, including mobile phones, MP3 players, gaming consoles, DVD players, DVD-RW, LCD-TV and multi-function peripherals. If a digital product can capture an image or play a sound, Wolfson's vision is to supply a product that will allow it to perform these tasks better.

Headquartered in Edinburgh, UK, Wolfson has sales and engineering offices in the USA, Japan, China, Taiwan, Korea and Singapore. Wolfson Microelectronics plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (LSE: WLF.L).

For more information about Wolfson Microelectronics, please visit www.wolfsonmicro.com or sign up for Wolfson eNews at <http://www.wolfsonmicro.com/enews/>.

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