

The Royal Society of Edinburgh

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Media Information

Entrepreneurs Shortlisted for Scotland's Top Innovation Award

Six leading entrepreneurs working in Scotland have been shortlisted for the nation's top award for innovation which carries a cash prize of £50,000.

The Gannochy Trust Innovation Award of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE)^{1*} has been created to encourage and reward Scotland's young innovators for work which benefits Scotland's wellbeing. The winner will be announced prior to a prestigious awards ceremony in October at The Royal Society of Edinburgh when Gannochy Trust Chairman, Dr Russell Leather and RSE President, Sir Michael Atiyah will present the award. Selected from a high quality field of entrants, the contenders are.

Dr Robert Kay, MicroStencil Limited:

Precision micro-engineered stencils – an enabling technology for the miniaturisation and cost-effective production of high-volume microelectronic devices. This technological breakthrough has been successfully utilised by key players in the industry to facilitate the production of ultra-fine connections on semiconductor devices, which end up in a host of products including digital cameras, mobile phones, laptops and MP3 portable music players. This technology is enabling the industry to meet current and future roadmaps which are driven by consumer requirements for electronic devices which are affordable, smarter, smaller and more functional than the previous generation of product.

<http://www.microstencil.co.uk/index.html>

Dr Sabrina Malpede, SMAR-Azure Ltd:

AZUREProject - software technology underpinning, an innovative sail design technology for designers and racers. As a result of the integrated *aerodynamic, structural* and *aeroelastic analysis methods*, it allows simulation of the behaviour of sails in realistic working conditions, aiding in their optimisation. Commercially available, this product allows designers to create any type of sail and optimise its performance in any sailing conditions.

www.smar-azure.com

Dr Alastair Martin, Flexitricity Limited:

Flexitricity is a "virtual power station" composed of a large number of sites of industrial and commercial electricity users. It uses internet communications to turn down electricity consumption, and run standby generation, for short periods when the national electricity system is under stress. This has near-instant response, wastes no CO₂ when waiting to be called, and when running emits less CO₂ than the power stations which would otherwise be used.

<http://www.flexitricity.com/>

Mr Tom Roberts, VitroNetics Ltd

Batch centrifugation of patient blood samples is inefficient. Combined with an increasing number of samples and difficulty recruiting lab staff, the net result is needless delays and poorer patient outcomes. Dr Roberts has effectively solved this problem by developing S-Fuge, a unique serial centrifuge technology that automatically processes samples in a continuous stream, saving precious lab resources and offering the prospect of faster results and earlier patient treatment

Dr Arash Sahraie, University of Aberdeen:

Neuro-Eye Therapy for rehabilitation of blindness following brain damage. Current clinical advice to those who lose their sight following brain damage is that nothing can be done to alleviate their loss of sight and that they should adapt coping strategies. The visual rehabilitation programme is similar in principle to those used to rehabilitate speech and movement and could benefit tens of thousands of patients affected by the condition. The therapy makes use of a computer-based medical device that can be used by patients in home environment and is available through Sight Science, established by University of Aberdeen.

www.abdn.ac.uk/sightscience

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sightscience>

Dr Colin Urquhart, Dimensional Imaging Ltd

Dimensional Imaging's *DI3D™* system is the first commercial application in the world that uses *passive stereo photogrammetry* to derive accurate, high resolution 3D surface images from only a stereo pair of images acquired using standard digital stills cameras. Over fifty DI3D™ systems have already been sold worldwide for use in fields as diverse as orthodontics, OMS (oral and maxillofacial surgery), plastic surgery, burns treatment, dermatology, psychology and entertainment. Dimensional Imaging has also recently launched its revolutionary *4D* surface image capture system, which uses the DI3D™ technology to recover a time sequences of 3D surface images from digital video images captured at up to 500 frames per second.

<http://www.di3d.com/>

Notes for Editors

1*The Gannochy Trust Innovation Award of the Royal Society of Edinburgh
The Gannochy Trust Innovation Award of the Royal Society of Edinburgh is Scotland's highest accolade for individual achievement in innovation and has been being created to encourage and reward Scotland's young innovators for work which benefits Scotland's wellbeing. The Award was presented for the first time in 2003 to Dr Barbara Spruce, Department of Surgery and Molecular Oncology, University of Dundee, for her innovative technology for the treatment of cancer. The 2004 Winner was Professor Ian Underwood, FRSE, whose research and innovation led to the creation in Scotland of a world record-breaking technology – an ultra-miniature television-quality display built on a silicon chip. In 2005 the award was presented to Mr John Harrison who developed a unique chemical technology that can effectively dissolve oil in water and vice versa, enabling pollution such as oil-contaminated wastes to be cleaned up and the detergents recycled.

In 2006, Dr Marie Claire Parker of XstalBio Ltd won the award for "Protein-coated Microcrystal (PCMC) Technology" that could transform the treatment of many diseases by enabling protein medicines that currently need to be injected, to be taken with an inhaler.

In 2007, Andrew Mearns Spragg, the CEO and Founder of Oban-based

company Aquapharm Biodiscovery Limited received the award for his work on developing new antibiotics to combat chronic multi-drug resistant infections such as MRSA and C. Difficile.

The award is presented annually to a young innovator whose work has potential to promote social and economic well-being. Established in partnership between The Gannochy Trust and The Royal Society of Edinburgh, the purpose of the new award is to encourage younger people to pursue careers in fields of research which promote Scotland's inventiveness internationally, and to recognise outstanding individual achievement which contributes to the common good of Scotland. The prestigious award also seeks to promote Scotland's research and development capability in new technologies and areas of social importance. Targeted at a new generation of Scottish innovator, any individual aged 45 or under working in Scotland is eligible to compete for the award. Competition entries from fields of research and development which have demonstrable potential to benefit Scotland's social or economic wellbeing, have been sought.

Funded by The Gannochy Trust, the Award is administered by The Royal Society of Edinburgh. Following an open competition run by The Royal Society of Edinburgh, this year's short-list was selected by a distinguished judging panel, Chaired by Lord Cullen, comprising: Mr Ewan Brown; Professor Andy Walker; Dr Ian Sword; Dr Russell Leather (Chairman of Trustees of the Gannochy Trust), and Professor David Milne.

The Gannochy Trust

The Gannochy Trust is a grant-making Trust based in Perth, which makes donations to charities in Scotland, with a preference for Perth and its environs. The Trust was founded in 1937 by Arthur Kinmond Bell, whisky distiller and philanthropist, who had previously built a model housing estate of 150 houses in Perth. In recent years the Trustees have enlarged the estate with a further 63 sheltered houses, which they maintain and administer, in addition to farms, recreation grounds and other properties. A number of civic, recreational and social projects in Perth bear witness to major charitable support from the Trust. In addition, many small charities in Perth receive regular donations. Other charitable organisations, large and small throughout Scotland, have been the recipients of donations from the Trust.

About the RSE

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) is an educational charity, registered in Scotland. Independent and non-party-political, our wide-ranging educational activities include:

- Organising lectures, debates and conferences
- Conducting major independent inquiries
- Providing educational activities for school students throughout Scotland
- Distributing over £2 million to top researchers and entrepreneurs
- Showcasing to the World the best of our research and development
- Increasing two-way international exchanges
- Encouraging, promoting and rewarding excellence
- Offering state-of-the-art conference facilities
- Publishing internationally respected learned journals

The RSE was founded in 1783 by Royal Charter for the "Advancement of Learning and Useful Knowledge". It is regarded as Scotland's National Academy of Science

and Letters. Today it has around 1400 Fellows whose expertise encompasses the full spectrum of the sciences, medicine, engineering and technology, education, law, the arts, humanities, social sciences, business, industry, the professions and public service. This multi-disciplinary perspective makes the RSE unique amongst the United Kingdom's learned societies. It is funded by a range of carefully selected charitable, public and private bodies. Its mission today is providing public benefit through the advancement of learning and useful knowledge. The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy, is Scottish Charity No.SC000470.

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