



QEPrize Winner will inspire people into engineering say National Grid CEO

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National Grid Chief Executive Steve Holliday says today's QE Prize winner provides a perfect example of how engineers are changing people's lives and he hopes it inspires more young people to consider a future in engineering.

The Energy company is one of the founding sponsors of the biennial £1 million prize, known as the 'Nobel Prize of Engineering' which was today awarded to Dr Robert Langer who developed the revolutionary controlled release drug delivery used to treat illnesses such as cancer. It is estimated that over 2 billion lives have been improved worldwide by the technologies that Dr Langer's lab has created.

Speaking following the announcement Steve Holliday, said: The QEPrize focuses on how applied technology is working to solve the world's biggest problems. It shines a light on the fact that engineering is at the heart of almost every significant humanitarian and technological breakthrough.

"We now have to take the achievements of Dr Langer and use them to raise the public profile of engineering, explode any stereotypes that may exist about the profession and inspire more young people – and particularly girls – to become engineers."

It's only the second time the prize has been awarded. The first was awarded in 2013 to the inventors of the internet. National Grid have supported QE Prize since its inception, seeing it as one of many ways they can help to break down stereotypes associated with engineering and point more young people towards engineering as a career.

National Grid Graduate Engineer Priya Talwar, who studied Mechanical Engineering at City University London and was at the event when the winner was announced, said: "Dr Langer has done so many incredible things that have changed so many lives. The impact that I can have as an engineer, the contribution I can make to society and the 'bigger picture', is what inspired me to pursue engineering at University.

"It was amazing today to be surrounded by so many inspirational engineers. It reminded me of the importance of having a role model and how young female engineers like me need to work to inspire more girls into the field."

A recent report into the current state of engineering in the UK suggested that there was still a need to double the number of engineering apprentices and graduates if the projected need for 1.82 million people with engineering skills by 2022.

The Energy and Efficiency Industrial Partnership estimates that around half the workforce employed in the Energy and Utilities sector is due to retire in the next 10 years so National Grid have a business case for trying to increase the pipeline of young people entering the profession.

For more information on the work of Dr Robert Langer, visit the [QE Prize website](#)

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Notes to Editors:

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world and was named Responsible Business of the Year 2014 by Business in the Community. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500

kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.

- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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