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Rise of the machines: Robots land in Kent on mission to inspire youngsters

Robots in drive to help youngsters discover joys of science

15 Dec 2015

- National Grid launches Vex Robotics programme in local schools in Dover, Thanet and Canterbury
- Participating youngsters to design and build robots to take part in competitions
- Scheme designed to inspire the young engineers of the future

Robots have landed at four schools in Dover, Thanet and Canterbury as National Grid launches the fun new VEX Robotics programme.

The four schools taking part are Dane Court Grammar School, Castle Community College, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Sandwich Technology School.

Representatives from National Grid visited the schools last week to present them with their VEX Robotics kits and meet the students who are taking part. Participating students are being challenged to design and build robots to compete against other local schools to win a place at the National VEX Robotics Championships held in March 2016.

Steve Self, Project Manager at National Grid, said: "National Grid is passionate about encouraging young people to consider engineering as an exciting career option. We're facing a real shortage of engineers in this country and I'm delighted that we're able to sponsor a programme which encourages more students to study science, technology, engineering and maths.

"Vex Robotics is a great way for students to learn and I can't wait to see how they all get on in the competitions."

Jo Perry, Head of Design Technology at Castle Community College said: "The students and staff were really excited to receive the two VEX Robotics kits, kindly sponsored by the National Grid. We have two teams: a boys' team and an all-girl team, both of whom are really motivated by this project.

National Grid will shortly be submitting its proposals to build a high voltage electricity connection between Richborough and Canterbury.

Link: www.richboroughconnection.co.uk

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

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- 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.
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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>

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