

Local pupils' robot in a class of its own

A robot developed by Colchester students, with the help of National Grid, has beaten entries from 18 other schools to be highly commended by judges at the VEX Robotics regional finals last week.

The team from St Helena School was the youngest group in the tournament and had only been working together for three months. The competition run by Rapid and VEX Robotics brought together teams from schools and colleges across East Anglia to pitch their robots against each other in a series of matches.

Each team was able to score points by remotely controlling their robots to stack cubes in a variety of ways and through building strategic alliances with competing schools.

St Helena is one of four schools in the region which has been given the robotics kit by National Grid as part of the energy company's initiative to promote science, engineering and technology in schools.

Bob Jones, a National Grid engineer said: "The robots developed by the students were tremendous and it was apparent just how much engineering talent is out there.

"We have been really delighted by the enthusiasm of the schools and we hope the VEX Robotics programme will encourage some of the youngsters to consider engineering when making their career choices."

Dani James, a science teacher from the school: "It was a really fantastic day for the school. The students have really worked hard over the past three months to develop their robot and the judges' award meant a lot to them.

"We are really grateful to National Grid for providing the kit. VEX Robotics has given the students a chance to really demonstrate their own individual skills lie; whether it is in the precise building of the robots, programming or even using an interest in videoing and editing to create a video of the event. Our pupils were really proud to have competed against older students and to have received recognition for that."

St Helena school is now looking at ways to improve on its performance and is planning to upgrade its robot ready for the next competition.

-ENDS-

Contact for media information only:

Sara Wilcox

National Grid Media Relations

07899 983792

01926 655271

sara.wilcox@nationalgrid.com

Out of hours duty press officer:

0845 366 6769

For more information, please visit our website: www.nationalgridmedia.com

Notes to Editors:

Rapid Electronics is distributor of electronics and educational products.

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world. 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.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
- We own and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 11 million homes and businesses
- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, I and remediation and metering
- National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry – 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain L NG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid and it undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

- In the northeast US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.
- National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

It is the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Follow us on [Twitter](#)

Watch us on [YouTube](#)

Friend us on [Facebook](#)

Find our photos on [Flickr](#)