



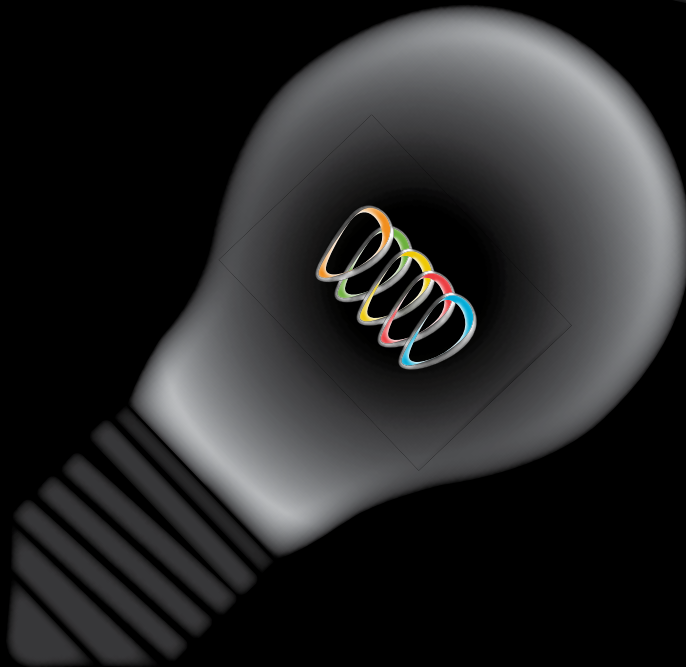
The Royal Academy  
of Engineering

The ERA  
Foundation

**The Royal Academy of Engineering  
ERA Foundation Entrepreneurs Award 2012**

**For early career researchers and academics**

**£40,000 prize for the winner**



# The Royal Academy of Engineering ERA Foundation Entrepreneurs Award

**This award has been established to identify entrepreneurial researchers, working in UK universities in the field of electro-technology, who are at an early stage in their career. The award will be presented to an individual or team demonstrating considerable entrepreneurial promise and the potential to benefit the UK's future prosperity.**

The winning entry will receive a personal prize of £10,000 together with a further £30,000 to invest in the development of the winning idea. In addition to the first award, two additional cash prizes of £2,000 will be presented to the runners-up. For further information please visit our website at [www.raeng.org.uk/era](http://www.raeng.org.uk/era)

## 2011 winners

### Dr Sithamparanathan Sabesan and Dr Michael Crisp

Founder and Director PervasID

Dr Sithamparanathan Sabesan and Dr Michael Crisp, both from the University of Cambridge's engineering department, won the award for their research into a low-cost location sensing system, which could have major benefits for a wide range of businesses.

The Real Time Location System (RTLS) will allow businesses such as high street retailers and airlines which use tagging on high-end goods and passengers' luggage, to cheaply and effectively

monitor the location of these items to within one metre. Current systems only allow for around 60% of tagged items to be detected and are also not able to locate tags accurately in real time, while the new system could be 100% accurate.

It is estimated the RTLS could save airlines in excess of £400 million. Retail groups have also been engaged in the project, not just for tagging items but also for the advancement of self-service checkouts.



## Previous winners

**2010**

**Dr Alexandre Pechev** Lecturer,  
University of Surrey

Dr Alexandre Pechev received the 2010 Award for his submission 'From spacecraft control to fast computer animation in games', which is a new, faster way of animating characters in computer games. Through his company IKinema™, a spin out company of the University of Surrey, Dr Pechev was able to commercialise this new technology. The prize money allowed him to invest in technical development, professional marketing support and patent protection.

**2009**

**Dr David Batterbee** Research Associate at  
the University of Sheffield and Managing  
Director of MR Shox Ltd

Dr David Batterbee won the award in recognition of his work on 'MR Shox' (MagnetoRheological Shock absorbers) which commercialises semi-active suspension products by utilising magnetorheological fluids. MR Shox began business with the release of a revolutionary electronic absorber for rear suspension mountain bikes.

**2008**

**EMdot** Queen Mary University

Queen Mary University's spin out company EMDot was awarded the prize for their patented drop-on demand dispensing technology. The technology allows the controlled production of extremely small liquid droplets which is important in a number of biomedical applications such as the engineering of replacement cartilage, soft tissue or bone and the production of microarray chips for drug development or disease diagnosis.

**2007**

**Mario Iobbi** Imperial College London

PhD research student Mario Iobbi won the award for his novel respiratory therapeutic device, Saturation Driven Oxygen Therapy (SDOT). It provides a more effective treatment for patients, decreases the likelihood of emergency hospital admissions and reduces healthcare costs.

**2006**

**Phil Harper** Research Assistant,  
University of Sheffield

Phil Harper won the award for the development of a unique sensor technology that can monitor and predict the failure of mechanical seals. Through his company Tribosonics Ltd, he was able to exploit the commercial applications of the sensor technology through consultancy and licensing opportunities.

### How to apply

For further information please visit our website at [www.raeng.org.uk/era](http://www.raeng.org.uk/era)

Applications must be received by  
**Monday 17 October 2011.**

There is no limit to the number of applications any university or institution may submit.

If you have any questions please contact Sylvia Hampartumian at the Academy on **020 7766 0648** or by email at [awards@raeng.org.uk](mailto:awards@raeng.org.uk)

# The Royal Academy of Engineering

As the UK's national academy for engineering, we bring together the most successful and talented engineers from across the engineering sectors for a shared purpose: to advance and promote excellence in engineering. We provide analysis and policy support to promote the UK's role as a great place from which to do business. We take a lead on engineering education and we invest in the UK's world class research base to underpin innovation. We work to improve public awareness and understanding of engineering. We are a national academy with a global outlook and use our international partnerships to ensure that the UK benefits from international networks, expertise and investment.

The Academy's work programmes are driven by four strategic challenges, each of which provides a key contribution to a strong and vibrant engineering sector and to the health and wealth of society.

## **Drive faster and more balanced economic growth**

The strategic challenge is to improve the capacity of UK entrepreneurs and enterprises to create innovative products and services, increase wealth and employment and rebalance the economy in favour of productive industry.

## **Lead the profession**

The strategic challenge is to harness the collective expertise, energy and capacity of the engineering profession to enhance the UK's economic and social development.

## **Foster better education and skills**

The strategic challenge is to create a system of engineering education and training that satisfies the aspirations of young people while delivering the high calibre engineers and technicians that businesses need.

## **Promote engineering at the heart of society**

The strategic challenge is to improve public understanding of engineering, increase awareness of how engineering impacts on lives and increase public recognition for our most talented engineers.

## The Royal Academy of Engineering ERA Foundation Entrepreneurs Award 2012



The Royal Academy of Engineering promotes excellence in the science, art and practice of engineering.

Registered Charity number 293074

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