

Local school secures Greenpower funding from Siemens

Sixteen teenage students at Parkstone Grammar School for girls have won the financial backing of Poole-based Siemens Mobility following a dragon den-style presentation to the company's senior management. The donation of £550.00 will fund essential equipment to enable the school to participate in this year's Greenpower event, a unique nationwide project aimed at young people interested in engineering and technology to design, build and race an electric car.

Thrilled with gaining sponsorship from Siemens, team member Ellie Edbrooke said: 'the school's team originally planned to build one car only but so many students wanted to be involved that we are now building three cars to race in the event which starts in May this year'. The money will go towards racing overalls, helmets and gloves for three teams to enter the Greenpower event.

Commenting on the presentation, the company's Managing Director, Gordon Wakeford said: 'We are committed to supporting projects aimed at young people with a keen interest in engineering. The girls made a very professional appeal and it's an exciting challenge as well as plenty of fun competing against other teams from all over the country.'

Attending the school every week for the past 14 weeks, staff at Siemens have also been helping the school's teams build the cars providing information and engineering expertise in electric cars.

Siemens is supporting The Greenpower Education Trust with funding and will host events for schools across the UK. It has also agreed with Greenpower that some of the support funding will be directed towards match funded bursaries to encourage more schools to get started.

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More local firms, schools and employees should get involved in this great project run by Greenpower. In doing so, we can reach tomorrow's talent from an early age, as well as address the topics that underpin the challenges of the future, such as sustainability', added Gordon Wakeford.

Since starting in 1999, Greenpower holds the Goblin Formula series for primary schools, Formula 24 for secondary schools and Formula 24+ for those aged 16-25. As the competition advances through the different age groups, the task of meeting the specifications becomes more challenging and engaging. This continuous development within the competition itself encourages its participants further into developing their own skills and knowledge, and allows a team to stay with the competition throughout their education, getting more enthusiastic as they go.

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Notes to editors:

About Siemens in the UK

Siemens was established in the United Kingdom 168 years ago and now employs around 16,000 people in the UK. Last year's revenues were £4.1 billion. As a leading global engineering and technology services company, Siemens provides innovative solutions to help tackle the world's major challenges, across the key sectors of energy, industry and healthcare. Siemens has offices and factories throughout the UK, with its headquarters in Frimley, Surrey. The company's global headquarters is in Munich, Germany. For more information, visit www.siemens.co.uk

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