

NEWS RELEASE

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Norwich students engineer place in national final

Four students from the City of Norwich School are to compete in a nationwide final after their innovative 'Silt Buster' aka 'The Trench Pig' design won a regional engineering competition.

The Year 12 students are taking part in the Engineering Education Scheme for England (EESA), which challenges sixth form and college students to investigate and find a solution to a real engineering problem. Working closely with mentor Alan Smith from Norwich-based support and construction services company May Gurney, the team, made up of Alex Ambrose, Abi Waite, Adam Smith and Fred Auckland, were tasked with removing pollutants from excavations on construction sites and came up with an innovative design they christened the 'Trench Pig'.

Catherine Gardner, Subject Leader for Engineering, at The City of Norwich School said: "We are very proud of the achievements of our team this year. The students have worked hard and accomplished a great deal. Not only have they designed a viable solution to a 'real' problem but have demonstrated their professionalism through written reports and presentations to a panel of judges"

In April, the sixth formers were awarded the Gold Crest Award for the project by EESA which recognises scientific curiosity, problem solving and communication skills. The team then took their design to the Crest Award regional finals in Stevenage last month (June) where the team gained first place in the gold category. They have now been put forward to the national finals in London, to take place in February next year.

Alan Smith from May Gurney said: "The Silt Buster is extremely successful at removing and filtering aggregates which can then be reintroduced into the construction process. This could have huge financial and environmental implications for a company such as May Gurney and the team thoroughly deserve the recognition the project has afforded them.

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“The Engineering Education Scheme for England is an excellent way for students with an interest in the subject to get hands on experience and to encourage them to seriously consider pursuing engineering as a career choice.”

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Notes to editors

Photo

Features left to right: Abi Waite, Alan Smith (May Gurney), Alex Ambrose, Catherine Gardner (City of Norwich School) and Adam Smith

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Silt Buster

Alan Smith, Project Manager from May Gurney attended weekly meetings to mentor the students through the development of the project. In December 2005, the four students visited the Engineering Department at Loughborough University where they were able to build and test a prototype. Following the University visit, the device was developed into a successful model.

The current project uses a conventional wet and dry vacuum and a gravity system of sieves to separate the various sized aggregates.

The students are currently looking at developing the project further in order to extract the fine particles from slurries/silts and feel that changing to a cyclical pump system with a vertical mesh may be preferable. These changes will be developed between now and the finals in February 2007.

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Engineering Education Scheme for England

The scheme designates that students work with a professional engineer from a link company and their teacher on a real engineering problem for 5-6 months. The scheme provides a launch, a residential university workshop and a celebration and assessment day.

www.thescheme.org.uk

About May Gurney

May Gurney is a dynamic integrated support and construction services company providing maintenance and enhancement services to the highways, rail, utilities and general infrastructure markets, primarily with public sector and regulated sector customers, across the UK. The company focuses on long term relationships, has 3,200 employees and delivers solutions through two primary business segments - Maintenance Services and Engineering & Project Services.

The **Maintenance Services** segment is focused on the core markets of highways and utilities. Activities include highways maintenance under long term partnerships with Local Authorities and network improvement and maintenance services provided to major UK utilities networks under long-term framework contracts.

The **Engineering & Project Services** segment serves public and regulated sector clients across a broad range of industries. Core services include the enhancement of road and rail infrastructure, waste management, flood protection, ground remediation, foundations, geotechnical engineering and building.

Please go to www.maygurney.co.uk for further details.