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**Renishaw hosts Royal visitor for double celebration**

On 26th November, His Royal Highness The Earl of Wessex visited Renishaw to present the company with its 16th Queen’s Award and to make a special 40th anniversary presentation to its co-founders Sir David McMurtry and John Deer. During his visit Prince Edward received demonstrations of Renishaw’s advanced engineering technologies, saw progress on a new 145,000 sq ft building, met some of Renishaw’s 111 apprentices, and was also presented with a very special 3D printed titanium gift.

His Royal Highness presented the company with a Queen’s Award for Enterprise 2013 in the Innovations category for its revolutionary REVO® five-axis multi-sensor probing system. The system is used on co-ordinate measuring machines (CMMs) to significantly improve accuracy and throughput when inspecting complex parts including aero-engine blades, automotive cylinder blocks and many types of gears.

Ahead of the formal presentation HRH The Earl of Wessex was welcomed to Renishaw’s New Mills headquarters site in Gloucestershire by Sir David McMurtry, Chairman and Chief Executive, and John Deer, Deputy Chairman, who formed the company in April 1973. His Royal Highness was given a short tour of the company’s product demonstration area by Sir David and the company’s Assistant Chief Executive Ben Taylor, where he was shown one of the first ever touch trigger probes for CMMs, manufactured in John Deer’s house in Chepstow, Wales, where the company was first registered.

The Earl of Wessex was also shown active demonstrations of REVO rapidly measuring complex components for aero-engines, highlighting the system’s unique ability to simultaneously control the motion of three machine and two head axes whilst collecting data from the machined part using its range of 2D, 3D and surface roughness measurement probes.

During the tour His Royal Highness was also shown Renishaw’s products for the dental industry, including replacement teeth structures made using a 3D printing process, probe systems for CNC machine tools, calibration products for monitoring machine positioning performance, position feedback encoders, and research developments for neurosurgical procedures.

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Sir David also introduced The Earl of Wessex to five young employees who are currently training as apprentices, or have recently completed an apprenticeship with Renishaw. The company, which employed its first apprentice in 1979, currently has a record 111 apprentices in training, having recruited over 40 young people onto the scheme in 2013. His Royal Highness spent time discovering the structure of the scheme, plus the employees’ individual career aims and aspirations.

Last year Renishaw received planning permission for a 230,000 sq ft building, which will house new demonstration and training facilities, enable the relocation of the company’s Spectroscopy product line, and provide space for projected future growth in R&D resource and corporate support functions. The Earl of Wessex viewed progress on a first-phase development of 145,000 sq ft which commenced in May and which is scheduled for first occupancy during Spring 2014.

Sir David then led The Earl of Wessex to the company’s staff restaurant where they were joined by a large gathering of Renishaw employees representing the business division responsible for the development and manufacture of the REVO system, plus senior managers from across Renishaw’s fifteen UK operational sites.

After welcoming His Royal Highness and Dame Janet Trotter, Her Majesty’s Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Sir David paid tribute to many people across the Renishaw Group who had contributed to the success of REVO, describing it as “one of the most challenging projects that we have ever undertaken.” He also said that despite being launched eight years ago that “there is still nothing in the market today to match its exceptional technological innovation and performance.”

Dame Janet then announced the Queen’s Award and praised Renishaw as a business that “punches above its weight locally, nationally and internationally.” She described the company’s sixteen Queen’s Awards in its 40 year history as “an outstanding record” and also praised Sir David’s inspiring leadership. After reading the formal award citation Dame Janet then invited The Earl of Wessex to present the Award, in the form of a crystal bowl, to Dave Wallace, Director and General Manager of the CMM Products Division.

Responding on behalf of Renishaw, Ben Taylor thanked Dame Janet for her kind words and also The Earl of Wessex for honouring the company with his presence. He also reiterated Sir David’s comments stating that the award for REVO “reflects a great sustained team effort over many years” and that the product “is fast becoming the inspection system of choice for many of the world’s leading automotive and aerospace manufacturing companies.”

Mr Taylor then took the opportunity to focus on Renishaw’s 40th anniversary and the contribution of its co-founders: “When David McMurtry and John Deer formed Renishaw Electrical Limited on April 4th 1973, could they possibly have imagined that 40 years later they would still be leading a company that has developed into one of the UK’s most respected engineering businesses, and indeed a company that is recognised by manufacturers around the world for its innovative, high quality products?”

He also paid tribute to John Deer who he described as “the unsung hero in the Renishaw story”, highlighting John’s work in establishing the first overseas sales networks and his leadership of the company’s manufacturing function. It was however John’s focus on skills development that Mr Taylor described as being possibly his greatest contribution: “He initiated our highly regarded apprenticeship scheme in 1979 and then in the early 1980s also initiated our undergraduate development programmes. Over the years both have these provided us with large numbers of talented engineers, many of whom now occupy senior roles in the business.”

In summary Mr Taylor said of the co-founders, “We all feel extremely proud of what Sir David and John have achieved over the past 40 years. They are modest men that have created a highly successful global company whilst keeping to their founding principles, and that is something of which they should both feel very proud.”

After presenting the co-founders with special 3D printed metal commemorative plaques, The Earl of Wessex was himself presented with a special gift by Morgan Lloyd, a 17 year-old first year apprentice who lives close to Renishaw’s new facility in South Wales.

Introducing the gift Ben Taylor explained to His Royal Highness that Renishaw is the UK’s only manufacturer of an additive manufacturing (‘3D printing’) machine that prints metal parts. He said that in combining “the past with the present” the company had printed a titanium replica of Renishaw’s 1802 Mill building which was then mounted on a pine base made from wood cut from an original beam in the building. “We hope that the replica will remind you of our special day in Gloucestershire,” concluded Mr Taylor.

The Queen’s Awards for Enterprise are the UK’s most prestigious awards for business performance, which recognise and reward outstanding achievement by UK companies.

Ends

**Note: The following is a full transcript of Ben Taylor’s speech:**

Your Royal Highness, Lord Lieutenant, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would firstly like to thank Dame Janet for her kind words about this latest Queen’s Award. Whilst this may be our 16th Queen’s Award since our formation, and our seventh in the past 10 years, it certainly doesn’t make this one any less special as the Awards continue to be regarded as the UK's most prestigious recognition of a company’s commercial and technological success.

As Sir David said earlier this award very much reflects a great sustained team effort over many years. REVO is an amazingly innovative product and certainly one of the most technically complex products that we have ever developed. It has been a real game changer for the measurement sector and is becoming the inspection system of choice for many of the world’s leading automotive and aerospace manufacturing companies.

Whilst many people involved with the design and manufacture of REVO are gathered here today, there are also many people that we should thank in our subsidiary operations who have been involved in ensuring the product’s commercial success.

However, whilst today Sir you are here to present us with a Queen’s Award, we are also very pleased that you are here to help us celebrate a very special anniversary for the company.

When David McMurtry and John Deer formed Renishaw Electrical Limited on April 4th 1973, could they possibly have imagined that 40 years later they would still be leading a company that has developed into one of the UK’s most respected engineering businesses, and indeed a company that is recognised by manufacturers around the world for its innovative, high quality products?

Could they have possibly imagined that they would go on to create a business that today employs over 3,300 people in 32 countries, of which 2,200 are in the UK, and also achieves 94% of its £347 million sales in overseas markets?

The answer of course is no. And yet as Sir David said a few years ago from the start they did set out to create something different: “Over the years, John Deer and I have tried to build a company that is different to most others. Different in how we apply technology to real world problems; in how we invest for the long term; in how we manufacture rather than outsource; in how we treat our customers as partners.”

And the co-founders have also based the success of Renishaw on three key principles to which they have strictly adhered over the past 40 years – to generate patented and innovative products and processes; to invest in high quality manufacturing, and to provide excellent local support to customers in all our global markets.

But importantly, I also believe that Renishaw has achieved its success through the way that it interacts in an open way with its employees, with its customers, and also with the communities in which it operates. The fact that the company set up its employee-led Charities Committee over 30 years ago, long before corporate social responsibility became a requirement for companies, highlights a real strength in the founders desire to be different – always taking decisions for the right reasons and not just because that was what was expected, and we still stick to those founding principles today.

It is often Sir David that receives the individual plaudits and recognition from the business and wider community due to the company’s success, and it was fantastic to see him honoured last week with The Telegraph’s award for a Decade of Excellence in Business – the first time that the head of a manufacturing business has been honoured in that way.

However, whilst it has been David’s brilliance in design and general innovation that has contributed so much to Renishaw’s success, today I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to John Deer, who in many ways is the unsung hero in the Renishaw story.

As David said recently when asked about the formation of the company, it was John’s “drive, commercial nous and ability to get things made” that has been so important to the business.

And you can certainly see that commercial focus in so many aspects of Renishaw’s success. It was John and our Finance Director Allen Roberts who travelled the world to sell the first products, to establish distributor relationships, and then to establish the early overseas subsidiary network. It was the foresight to invest in markets based on potential rather than actual sales that has served us so well – just look at China where we opened our first office when sales were just £300,000. Today we have 10 offices and China is our largest market with 110 people and sales of over £75 million.

John has always led manufacturing in the business and today despite only 6% of our sales being in the UK, the vast majority of our manufacturing is still done here, due to the high quality, highly efficient processes that have been developed under his watch.

But perhaps John’s greatest contribution was his realisation that to compete for skilled staff against the large engineering businesses meant developing your own. He initiated our highly regarded apprenticeship scheme in 1979 and then in the early 1980s also initiated our undergraduate development programmes. Over the years both have these provided us with large numbers of talented engineers, many of whom now occupy senior roles in the business.

This year, Sir, we recruited a record 40 apprentices into our business and 54 graduates, whilst giving placements to over 90 students. As you will have seen today when meeting some of our young apprentices, we are absolutely committed to developing young people in our business and helping Renishaw to continue its success well into the future.

We all feel extremely proud of what Sir David and John have achieved over the past 40 years. They are modest men that have created a highly successful global company whilst keeping to their founding principles, and that is something of which they should both feel very proud.

To commemorate their achievements we have therefore created a special gift to mark the passing of 40 years.

And Sir if I can now ask you on behalf of the staff of Renishaw to present these gifts to Sir David and John Deer.

*(APPRENTICE JASMINE SHELLARD HANDS GIFTS TO HRH TO PRESENT TO SIR DAVID AND JOHN DEER)*

Many thanks Sir for making that special presentation.

We would also like to register our sincere thanks to Dame Janet for joining us on this special day despite still recovering from her recent car accident, and for helping make this day happen.

*(FORMER APPRENTICE SAM COOK PRESENTS DAME JANET A BUNCH OF FLOWERS)*

And finally Your Royal Highness, we would like to make a small presentation to you - to thank you for honouring us with your presence today and for helping us celebrate our 2 special occasions.

You may not be aware, but Renishaw is the UK’s only manufacturer of an industrial 3D printing machine that prints metal parts. This is the very latest 21st Century technology that is starting to have a significant impact on the way that products will be manufactured in the future.

During you tour today you saw our old Mill HQ building that was built over 200 years ago in 1802.

Therefore we decided to combine the past with the present and use our 3D printing machine to make a replica of the Mill building, produced in the metal Titanium. And to add to the combination of old and new, the base on which the replica sits is made from pine wood taken from one of the original beams in the Mill.

Sir, thank you again for visiting us today and we hope that the replica will remind you of our special day in Gloucestershire. I would now like to ask one of our youngest apprentices Morgan Lloyd to present you with this small gift.

*(APPRENTICE MORGAN LLOYD PRESENTS THE GIFT TO HRH)*

That now concludes today’s formal presentation – thank you again for attending.