

22 February 2011

## **Pupils 'Shake, Rattle and Role Play' At INEOS' Science Fair**

Learning about Learning about the effects of earthquakes and floods on the urban environment and the construction of vibrating toys incorporating electrical circuits, will be just two of the interactive and hands-on workshops featuring at this year's annual INEOS Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) fair.

Designed to promote science, engineering and technological subjects through investigation and team work, over 1700 Primary 7 (10/11 yr old) children from 53 local schools, including all in the Falkirk Council area, have been invited to take part in this exciting and unique event that will see the pupils take on the roles of scientists and engineers.

David East, Communication Manager at INEOS' Grangemouth site said, "We are delighted to run our annual science fair for local school children. As an industry that uses science and technology everyday it is important that we enthuse the next generation to take up these subjects at secondary school. This event is all about showing children that science and technology can be fun through participation in interactive workshops and 'hands-on' activities and is more relevant this year given that 2011 has been designated International Year of Chemistry. "

The 2011 SET fair is supported by INEOS, Global Science, Scottish Government and Falkirk Council and is part of the My Future's in Falkirk economic development initiative. Running from 28<sup>th</sup> February – 15<sup>th</sup> March in the indoor arena at Grangemouth Stadium, specific workshops (listed below) will run at regular intervals throughout the 12-day event, covering topics associated with engineering, science, technology and mathematics.

Frank McKeever, Global Science said, "We are delighted with the partners supporting this event over National Science Week. Alongside Glasgow Science Centre and ScottishPower, this year we welcome two new partners, Heriot-Watt and Edinburgh Universities. The INEOS annual Education Fair is recognised as the premier STEM event within Falkirk District. The support provided by Scottish Government will be used to develop and expand the event in future years and also to involve the wider community."

### **Workshops:**

**INEOS' Jitterbug** - In this workshop pupils will construct a toy that employs a simple circuit and a switch mechanism. The end product is a 'jitterbug' which incorporates a battery-powered motor and a spinning off-centre mass. This mechanism is used in many toys and games to cause movement and is offered

at the SET fair as the starting point for exploring simple electric circuits, forces and movement.

**The Heriot-Watt University workshop** will consist of two activities:

Urban flooding - During the workshop pupils will see how flooding can occur, using a scale model of a town with its very own "rain clouds". They will then get the chance to change elements of the town to see if they can reduce the risk of flooding.

Earthquake - During the workshop pupils will construct a 3-level high tower using pre-cut MDF board squares, wooden sticks and glue. Their model will then be tested against earthquakes of various intensities on the "shaking table".

**The Gene Jury (The University of Edinburgh/ SSERC) project** is a fun way for school pupils to explore modern bioscience and the impact it has on everyday life. The Gene Jury workshops will use games and activities to explain modern genetic concepts. Children investigate and discuss case studies and act as a 'jury' considering different attitudes and expressing their opinion.

**The Glasgow Science Centre's 'Who Wants to be a Scientist?' workshop** will see pupils experience an interactive show featuring spectacular demonstrations to engage, inform and enthuse. The Glasgow Science Centre team will highlight the importance of science and how biology, chemistry and physics link into careers.

**It's "Rocket Science"** is a fun and engaging way to allow pupils to look at 'rockets', 'thrust' and the 'Laws of Motion'. The pupils will work in teams of four to prepare their rockets for take off and design a recovery system (parachute) for their return.

The theme of the **ScottishPower** workshop is 'I could be a ScottishPower Engineer – I could control electricity. A mini-workstation has been created with the aim of helping children understand electricity by taking them through a series of fun and interactive activities. How it feels, how it moves and how it can be controlled. Each of these activities is geared to making children appreciate the importance, and day to day necessity, of electricity and how they can play a part in it.

-ends-

For more information, please contact:

David East, Communication Manager, INEOS, Grangemouth

Tel: +44 (0) 1324 476948

e-mail: david.east@ineos.com

**Note to editors:**

INEOS' Grangemouth refining and petrochemicals complex produces over nine million litres of clean fuel products per day and around one million tonnes of chemical products per year.

INEOS ([www.ineos.com](http://www.ineos.com)) is one of the world's largest chemicals companies; a leading manufacturer of petrochemicals, specialty chemicals and oil products. Comprising 17 businesses, with a production network spanning 51 manufacturing facilities in 13 countries, the company produces more than 40 million tonnes of

petrochemicals, 20 million tons per annum of crude oil refined products (fuels). INEOS employs 15,000 people and has sales approaching \$44bn.

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

My Future's in Falkirk is an innovative economic development initiative which is transforming the Falkirk area into a diverse and modern economy and a desirable place to work, live and visit. Launched in 2002, My Future's in Falkirk is a public and private sector partnership between Falkirk Council, BP and INEOS.

The area already makes a major contribution to the Scottish economy through its position as the hub of the chemicals industry, its extensive transportation links and its growing reputation as a tourism and leisure destination.

To celebrate the International Year of Chemistry, INEOS is sponsoring the Chemical Industries Association International Year of Chemistry competition. The competition, launched by Esther McVey MP at the House of Commons, is for school pupils of all ages to think about how science impacts their everyday lives and how science might transform life as we know it by 2050.

