



Highlighting STEM

Amec Foster Wheeler aims to promote engineering by inspiring young people through partnerships and events. Working with schools, colleges and groups, people from around the company develop and deliver activities that highlight STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects in fun and engaging ways, while bringing a deeper understanding of the world around us to ensure quality education. Our STEM programmes and educational partnerships allow us to support the targets associated with the quality education sustainable development goal, as well as meet our own business and wider industry needs.

My Friend the Wind

For the eighth year running, our Milan office organised an open day on the Vallesaccarda wind farm, operated by Amec Foster Wheeler Power, to provide students with an opportunity to see the farm and learn more about the production of electricity from this source.

The event was attended by 50 children, accompanied by their teachers, from four primary schools in the region. Francesco Capodilupo, plant supervisor, gave a presentation on renewable energy and its contribution to a resilient world. Students also had the opportunity to visit the base of a functioning 1.5 MW wind turbine and electrical substation to understand how it works.





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Zanele's story

Zanele was born and raised in Tembisa, a poor township in Johannesburg, where she lived with her extended family of six people in a single home of two rooms.

When she reached Grade 10 she joined the Tomorrow Trust and became part of Amec Foster Wheeler's programme. Since joining the programme she has improved her scores from an average of 35% to completing Grade 12 with a bachelor/university pass rate and seven distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science and English Language.

Amec Foster Wheeler has continued its investment in Zanele as she pursues her studies at the University of Pretoria. Zanele is studying to become a chemical engineer and is in her final year. This investment in her education has allowed her to break free from the poverty cycle and contribute positively to the future of South Africa.



Tomorrow Trust

Our Midrand office in Johannesburg has had an education partnership with Tomorrow Trust since 2010 and to date has donated the equivalent of almost £250,000. This partnership allows us to fulfil our commitment to furthering the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) agenda, an initiative of the South African Government to empower previously disadvantaged groups.

The Tomorrow Trust is a non-profit organisation based in South Africa that works exclusively with orphans, vulnerable children and youth to provide integrated education and holistic support in a sustainable manner. The trust enables these children and young people to focus on their education and to access opportunities they otherwise would not have. The Trust provides extracurricular academic support to children in school (ages 6-18) via its Holiday and Saturday School Programmes, as well as supporting a Post-Secondary Programme aimed at assisting students in accessing and completing a high school qualification that would enable them to move on to tertiary education. Through its funding, Amec Foster Wheeler has helped 85 high school students, and a further two in tertiary education programmes.

Ensuring our partnership extends beyond financial support, our Midrand office has previously employed one student, who was with the company for six years. More recently we employed a Graduate Electrical Engineer who is being mentored by one of our Principal Electrical Engineers. The office has also sponsored learners' vacation work during the holidays, helping them to gain experience in the field they are studying and donated time to teach classes in informal settlements on weekends.



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Westlakes sponsors

Amec Foster Wheeler worked with The Centre for Leadership Performance via the 'Bright Stars' scheme to support the talents of young people in Cumbria, UK, by encouraging a culture of entrepreneurship and aspiration. The Bright Stars competition is aimed at primary school children across Cumbria and Amec Foster Wheeler teamed up locally with Gosforth Primary School, close to our Westlakes office near Sellafield.

Each school received an initial £50, with a simple instruction to make it grow to the highest amount possible by setting up their own mini businesses and then through investment and fundraising creativity, with help and support from local businesses. In addition to the funding we provided, Rob Firby, Operations Manager from our Sellafield business, advised and mentored the pupils, helping them to develop their own ideas and establish and work together in a team.

The event culminated in a Presentations Day at the Energen facility in Lillyhall, and the £900 profits made by the Amec Foster Wheeler team were shared between the school and their chosen charity, Cancer Research.



“The Centre for Leadership Performance would like to say a huge thank you to Amec Foster Wheeler for supporting our Bright Stars school challenge. We have been amazed by the levels of creativity, commitment and enthusiasm from everyone involved. We believe that supporting the talents of all our young people is vital for the future economy here in Cumbria.”

Sarah Glass, Bright Stars Scheme, Centre for Leadership Performance

Dalziel speed interviewing

Amec Foster Wheeler’s local partnership with Dalziel High School, established in 2013, has been a huge success. The partnership ensures the school’s pupils take part in a range of STEM-related activities, which show them the many exciting careers available in engineering.

Continuing our commitment, some of our engineers participated in an innovative speed interviewing event aimed at inspiring S2 pupils to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. The event provided an opportunity for approximately 110 students to interview role models, representing various industries (including engineering, finance, production and IT) in order to gain a better understanding of real life applications for STEM subjects and to help them make informed choices as they select the subjects they will study for their exams.



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