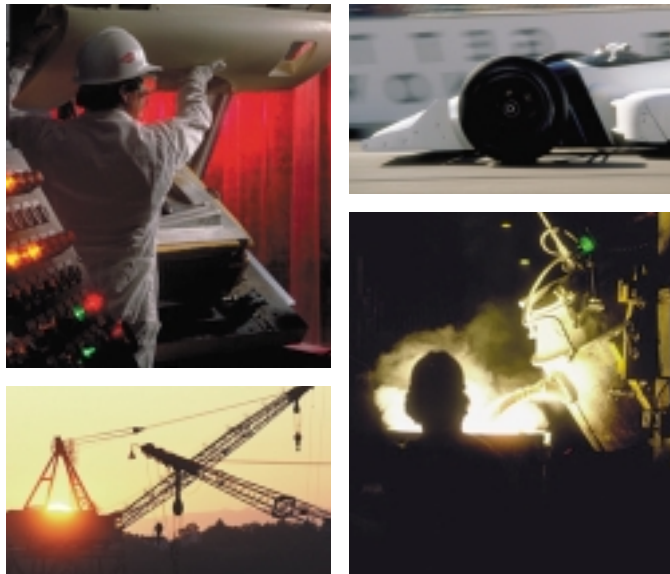


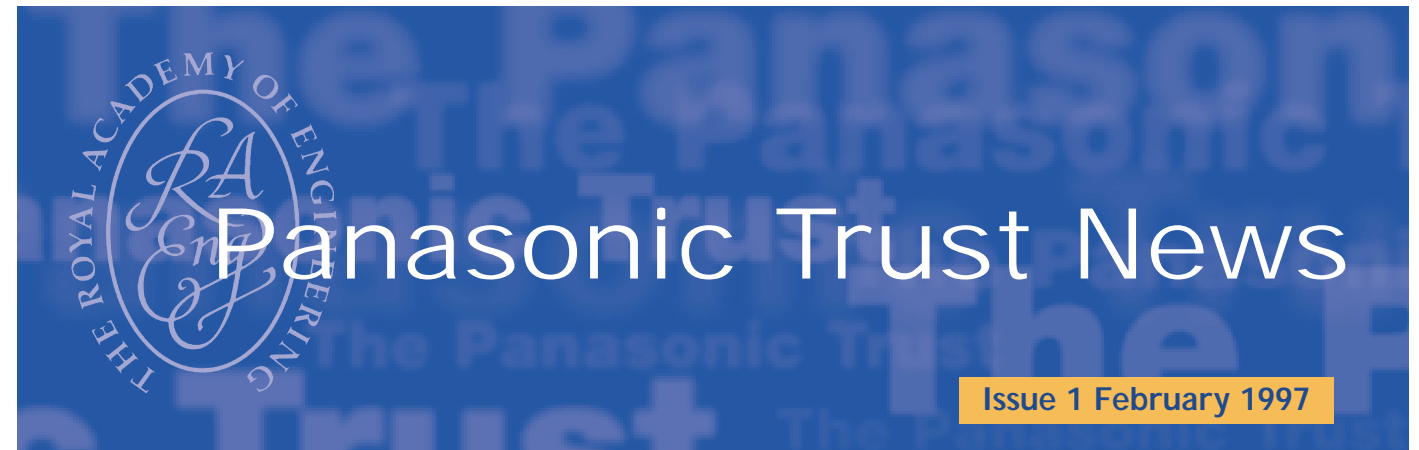
## The Panasonic Trust



### *Supporting Professional Development*



THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING



## *Supporting Professional Development*

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Panasonic Trust. Through this biannual publication, we hope to bring you news of the latest Trust awards and initiatives, profiles of awardees and the current availability of funding. If you are an engineer who wants to undertake a part-time course as part of your continuing professional development, contact the Panasonic Trust now.

We begin this first edition by profiling Stewart Mace, a Design Engineer with Benetton Formula 1 Racing, who held a Panasonic Trust award from 1994 to 1996 to study the MSc in Engineering Design at Loughborough University. Stewart spent fourteen years in the Aerospace Industry before joining Benetton. Three years ago, he knew the time had come to expand his engineering knowledge base and set about finding the best way to achieve it.

"In my view engineers fall into two categories. There are those who specialise in certain aspects of engineering and those who take a general overview and become versatile engineers with the ability to look at many types of design applications. I felt my tendency was towards the latter, so I looked for a course in design engineering. The most suitable seemed to be the part-time modular MSc in Design Engineering offered by Loughborough University. The attraction was twofold. Primarily being part-time, I was able to continue my employment whilst attaining the necessary academic platform to help me advance in my career.



Secondly the syllabus was structured in such a way that the entire design management process was covered, from the initial idea through to manufacture and sales. Other areas, such as selection of materials and the process for manufacture, were covered in depth to give students a greater degree of competence.

*"I was able to apply the knowledge gained from the course almost immediately at work."*

The motor racing industry is very dynamic; work has to be completed quickly and a lot of research and development is undertaken to enable teams to remain competitive. New technologies, be it materials or manufacturing techniques, are introduced regularly and these have to be continually monitored, tested and evaluated. I have been able to apply many of the techniques introduced on the course for evaluating and designing applications for aerodynamic data acquisition from wind tunnel tests.

I would like to thank the Panasonic Trust for financing the degree and for putting faith and money into this country's engineers. The degree would have taken me much longer to complete without this support as financial obstacles would have stopped me from attending the university on such a regular basis."

The Panasonic Trust not only supports industrial engineers of all disciplines with their professional development, but also at every professional level. Here Mark Woodgate, Production Director of Betol Machinery Ltd in Luton, explains why he decided to study part-time for a Masters degree and the benefits that have accrued to him.



"Having spent the whole of my working life in engineering, from shop floor to board room, there came a point at which I realised my academic qualifications did not match the practical skills I had attained over the years. I was also aware that industry was fast changing, and, gaining a greater understanding of advancing technologies would be immensely beneficial. My goal was therefore simple, to redress matters and gain a formal qualification.

Achieving this goal was somewhat more difficult than I had thought, particularly when deciding on a relevant course and finding an educational establishment interested in the more mature student who needed to combine working full-time with study. Ultimately, I enrolled for an MSc in Advanced Manufacturing Systems at Kingston University, and in February 1996 received my degree with distinction at the

Barbican, one of the proudest days of my life. The course itself was a credit to the University and the Panasonic Trust who helped sponsor me.

Courses such as these demand a great deal of hard work and self discipline. I believe that without the encouragement of my family, University Course Co-ordinator, Managing Director and The Royal Academy of Engineering, my dream would never have become reality.

*"I feel that I am now far better equipped to help my employer become a more successful organisation and to enhance my future in engineering."*

Mark's story is taken up by Alan Rutherford, Managing Director of Betol Machinery Ltd, who describes Mark's impact on the company since taking the course.

"Betol Machinery started manufacturing plastic extruders and downstream equipment over thirty years ago and now export equipment to over eighty countries. Joining the EIS Group in 1989 gave strong support and financial backing, enabling Betol to become a world leader in the supply of extrusion equipment to the medical, automotive and pressure hose industries. Such rapid growth had its problems, in that sales outstripped its machining capacity and production control.

Mark has brought in new CNC Machining Centres and introduced new production systems. Most importantly, he has revitalised the little-used Micross System for Production and Stock Control. The layout in the production area has been completely changed to improve efficiency and new methods of quality control introduced, from categorising suppliers through to advanced inspection methods.

The establishment of these advanced manufacturing systems at Betol has reduced production costs, increased efficiency and enabled us to offer superior technical advantages to our customers at an extremely competitive price."

## *Trustees Increase Funding to Cope with Demand*



The Trustees of the Panasonic Trust have acted quickly to deal with the recent upsurge in demand for financial support. At their last meeting, Trustees agreed to increase the external spend budget in 1997 by 50%. Robin Bond FEng, Chairman of Trustees, is delighted with the development, stating "The publicity surrounding the Trust's 10th anniversary combined with a greater awareness amongst engineers of the need for continuing professional development has led to this situation. Trustees are very encouraged and hope this additional funding will go some way to satisfying the demand."



## *Do You Run a Technology Updating Course?*

The Panasonic Trust is always looking for new courses to support with its awards. In 1997, it hopes to expand its activities substantially by allocating more funding over a wider range of courses. Suitable courses are part time and cover areas of new technology. Applicants need not be graduates but must have an educational engineering qualification. If this matches the profile of your course, the Panasonic Trust would like to hear from you.



## *Application Information*

All enquiries about the Panasonic Trust and its activities should be made to:

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