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**22,545 PEOPLE, NINE ROBOTS, A LEMUR, A COFFEE POWERED CAR AND AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST FLOCK TO THE BIG BANG: UK YOUNG SCIENTISTS' AND ENGINEERS' FAIR**

Figures just in reveal that 22,545 people attended last week's Big Bang: UK Young Scientists' and Engineers' Fair in Manchester; more than three times as many as the 6,500 who attended the inaugural Fair in 2009.

The Fair, which features the prestigious National Science & Engineering Competition, and is thought to be the largest single celebration of science and engineering aimed exclusively at children and young people, this year attracted:

- 15,469 children and young people
- 4,118 parents, guardians and teachers
- 312 National Science & Engineering Competition entrants
- 110 partners and sponsors including Astra Zeneca, BAE Systems, Shell and Siemens.

Attendees were split approximately 50:50 across the gender divide and special guests included Lord Mandelson, Olympic gold medallist Amy Williams, the BBC's Jem Stansfield, Liz Bonnin and entire *Bang Goes the Theory* team, Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Professor Marcus du Sautoy, Resident Blue Peter Science Expert Steve Mould, Kate Bellingham and Curtis the Madagascan Lemur of 'Fierce Creatures' Fame.

Activities included welding with chocolate, exploring the human genome, building a supersmart lego robot, exploding a cow's fart, and challenging the Wigan Warriors to produce enough green energy to cook their own breakfasts.

Jem Stansfield, Presenter of BBC's *Bang Goes the Theory*, and creator of the coffee-powered car, said:

“It was just amazing. There were so many kids there, it was insane. Some of their favourite things were welding with chocolate and testing their reflexes against Formula One’s Jenson Button’s score. On the whole, it was just a really good day.”

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of EngineeringUK, which organised the Fair, said:

“As well as a wide range of schools and students, the best thing about this year’s fair was the way it attracted a whole new audience of local children and families and managed to really draw them into the possibilities science and engineering. More than just a great day out, The Big Bang 2010 was a sensational educational experience which showcased the many and varied science and engineering careers on offer to children and families across the UK.”

*The footage of the coffee-powered car arriving at The Big Bang Fair will be screened on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the final episode of Bang Goes the Theory on BBC 1.*

ENDS

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About The Big Bang [www.thebigbangfair.co.uk](http://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk)**

The Big Bang: UK Young Scientists’ and Engineers’ Fair kicks off National Science and Engineering Week and will this year be held at Manchester Central Convention Complex, 11-13 March 2010. The Big Bang will celebrate and raise the profile of young people’s achievement in science and engineering and encourage more young people to take part in STEM initiatives with support from their parents and teachers.

Led by EngineeringUK, The Big Bang is developed in partnership with over 100 organisations from business & industry, government and the science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) community - with support from across the political spectrum.

### **About the National Science & Engineering Competition**

The National Science & Engineering Competition is an initiative of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills as a response to a recommendation in Lord Sainsbury’s

report 'The Race to the Top'. It is coordinated by the British Science Association in partnership with Young Engineers and The Big Bang. The Competition, open to all 11-18 year olds, accepts projects from all areas of science, technology, engineering and maths. The finals of the National Science & Engineering Competition will be held at The Big Bang. For more information and a full list of sponsors go to [www.nationalsciencecompetition.org](http://www.nationalsciencecompetition.org).

### **About EngineeringUK**

EngineeringUK, formerly the ETB, is an independent organisation that promotes the vital contribution of engineers, engineering and technology in our society. EngineeringUK partners business and industry, government and the wider science and engineering community: producing evidence on the state of engineering, sharing knowledge within engineering and inspiring young people to choose a career in engineering, matching employers' demand for skills. For more information about EngineeringUK please visit [www.EngineeringUK.com](http://www.EngineeringUK.com),

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